



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

No. 78

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 14, 2007, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of hosts, You have done great things for us, filling our hearts with gladness. You keep our eyes from tears, protect us from unseen dangers, supply us with wisdom, and direct our steps. Each breath we take is Your gift; each of our heartbeats is borrowed. Your benefits and blessings astound us, particularly Your willingness to save us.

Give our Senators today the assurance of Your presence. Inspire them with a calm faith, a steady peace, and a firm resolve to do Your will. Let no weapon formed against them prosper and let no force of evil that seeks to harm them prevail. Rather, may each lawmaker hear Your voice saying, "This is the way. Walk on this path."

We pray in Your all-powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today we are only going to be in morning business. There are no rollcall votes today, nor will there be on Monday. However, on Monday, Senators BOXER and INHOFE, the managers of the Water Resources legislation, will be here for Members to come to the floor and debate amendments.

It is my understanding that at least one Member on the majority side has

agreed to be here Monday to discuss his amendment.

Yesterday, Senator FEINGOLD discussed an amendment relating to Corps project prioritization. Senator FEINGOLD is willing to have that amendment voted on Tuesday morning after a brief period of debate. Therefore, Members should expect a rollcall vote or multiple votes prior to the 12:30 recess on Tuesday morning.

If we are unable to have the debates arranged so we have the votes on WRDA Tuesday morning, we will have a Federal district judge vote Tuesday morning. So we will have a vote Tuesday morning.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night, the House of Representatives passed a new Iraq supplemental. So now it is our turn. We have to take the next step to pass our version of the bill that will go to conference. The House has done their job. We now have to do our job.

We all know reaching consensus on a new bill to send to the President will not be easy. That is what the Republican leader and I were talking about right here.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Passions run high on this issue—very high. But there is new reason this week to believe a bipartisan consensus in Iraq is emerging. It is what the American people want. A recent poll—in fact, it was from a couple days ago—shows 75 percent of Americans favor benchmarks and 60 percent favor a timetable for reducing combat forces. It is what President Bush's own military advisers say we need, including General Petraeus, who has said this war cannot be won militarily. It is what Democrats have stood for with firm resolve throughout these entire negotiations.

Now, in the last few days, we have seen our Republican colleagues move closer to our position. Over the weekend, the House majority leader, JOHN BOEHNER, said:

By the time we get to September or October, members are going to want to know how well this is working, and if it isn't, what's Plan B.

That is a timetable. The President has objected to our timetables. He vetoed our bill with timetables in it. The Republican leader in the House—the No. 1 Republican in the House—has told the President if things are not OK in September or October, something else has to happen. That is a timetable. Senator LOTT said:

This fall we have to see some significant changes on the ground.

And days ago, Leader MCCONNELL echoed those sentiments as well.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday a broad coalition of Republican House Members expressed their dissent directly to the President. They went to the White House, spent an hour and 15 minutes with the President. One of them, TOM DAVIS of Virginia, called it their chance to confront a President who, as he put it, is in a bubble.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, I am inclined to agree with that assessment. The President is in a bubble. He is isolated.

Every day, the ranks of dissatisfied Republicans grow. But I wish my Republican colleagues—who now agree that President Bush's open-ended commitment has failed—would put some teeth behind their views.

We have courageous American troops in harm's way every day. We lost another Nevadan this week. There may be a State that has lost more than the Presiding Officer's State, but I do not know what State that would be. The State of Ohio has suffered significantly in the loss of life.

It is time for action. It is time to change course. It is long past due.

But I would say the shift we are hearing from the Republicans, even though a little bit quiet, each day is getting louder and louder and louder. It is a welcome shift, and it is very encouraging. It gives me hope that in the coming days, weeks, and months we will be able to work together with good faith and bipartisanship to give our troops and all Americans the new course they demand and deserve and

the opportunity for our troops to come home.

We are going to do our very best to come up with something we can pass here in the Senate, send to the House, and confer, have a conference. We will do that to the very best of our ability. But, as I indicated earlier, it is not going to be easy.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

POLITICIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, competence, independence, and sound judgment are the lodestar of the administration of justice in this country. Unfortunately, over the past few months, I and many Americans have been forced to question on all three counts those whom this President has appointed to lead the Department of Justice. Indeed, with each passing day, we sense more and more that something is gravely wrong.

For example, we have learned about the misuse and abuse of the Department's power to issue national security letters under the PATRIOT Act—which, even under the most legitimate and benign circumstances, represents a truly imposing authority. As you know, a national security letter, or NSL, is a Government demand for private information, issued without a warrant to third parties such as banks, phone companies, and Internet service providers. In March, the Department of Justice's inspector general reported that NSLs were being "seriously misused." Among other things, there were no clear guidelines for issuing national security letters. They were issued without proper authorization, there was sloppy recordkeeping by the FBI, and there were no procedures for purging a citizen's private information if the investigation was closed.

We have also, of course, learned about the unprecedented firings of eight U.S. attorneys—dismissals which seem to have been motivated by politics, marred by incompetence, or, more likely, both.

The details of the Department's misjudgments in this matter, and par-

ticularly the degree to which partisan politics has infiltrated this Department, become more numerous and more damaging to the Attorney General's credibility every day. But the politicization of the Department should come as no surprise when we examine how the rules governing initial contacts between the White House and the Department of Justice on non-national security-related investigations and cases—traditional criminal cases—have changed since President Bush took office.

During previous administrations, there were strict rules governing contacts between the White House and the Department of Justice on investigations and cases—and for good reason. A strong firewall is necessary to prevent undue and untoward efforts to inject politics into the administration of justice. During the Clinton administration, this firewall was articulated in a September 1994 letter from Attorney General Janet Reno to White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler. It is my understanding that credit goes to Senator HATCH, then chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his interest in seeing this policy confirmed in this way. So this has been a continuing and bipartisan concern, this question of the firewall between the White House and the Department of justice. The Reno letter stated:

Initial communications between the White House and the Justice Department regarding any pending Department investigation or criminal or civil case should involve only the White House counsel or deputy counsel, or the President or Vice President, and the Attorney General or Deputy or Associate Attorney General.

That policy is represented by this chart. On the White House side, the only people authorized to have these initial discussions on criminal cases are the President, Vice President, Deputy White House Counsel, and the White House Counsel. Within the Department of Justice, it is only the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and the Associate Attorney General—a grand total of seven people.

As I noted during the Attorney General's testimony before the Judiciary Committee last month, that rule was changed in an April 2002 memo from Attorney General Ashcroft. The new policy permits initial communications on cases and investigations between the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and the office of the counsel to the President, and it also states that staff members of the Office of the Attorney General, if so designated by the Attorney General, may communicate directly with officials and staff of the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President, and the office of counsel to the President.

The new rule is represented by this other chart. There are over 400 people in the White House now authorized to have those conversations with the Department of Justice, where before it was 4. Before, it was the very top administration officials in the White

House—the President, Vice President, Attorney General, White House Counsel, and Deputy White House Counsel. Who knows who all these other folks are. One of these boxes is Karl Rove. That makes you wonder. Down here, these are all the staff now within the Department of Justice who are authorized to have those communications, whereas before it was limited to the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and Associate Attorney General.

These charts demonstrate the extraordinary latitude now permitted the White House and Department of Justice to discuss sensitive investigations and prosecutions. With the clear exception of discussions related specifically to national security, where one can understand you might want to have discussion also with the White House when it is a national security issue that would involve the military and other agencies of Government, for regular criminal cases and for prosecutions, I am hard-pressed to imagine any reason the Clinton-era rule needed expansion. Indeed, when I put this question to Attorney General Gonzales when he was before our committee, he had no answer.

These are not just bureaucratic niceties. Rules governing conduct within organizations have an obvious and direct effect on the conduct of people within those organizations. Clearly, the politicization of the Department has been either a byproduct or a cause of this changed rule. After all, the more political people you allow to weigh in on sensitive investigations and cases, the more you run the risk—or, indeed, make it possible—that those investigations and cases become inappropriately politicized.

So this brings us to FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Given all this, perhaps I should not have been surprised when I reviewed the administration's proposed Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act "modernization" bill and compared it to the current FISA statute.

Under the current statute, title 50 of the U.S. Code, section 1804, passed in 1978, each application for a court order approving electronic surveillance under FISA must include the approval of the Attorney General, plus a number of required statements and certifications. One of those is a certification that information sought is "foreign intelligence information" and that such information "cannot be reasonably obtained by normal investigative techniques." That certification—a critical proceeding with a FISA application—can currently be made by only a few people:

The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs or an executive branch official or officials designated by the President from among those executive officers employed in the area of national security or defense and appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

That is actually a grand total of nine people, all senior level, all with a lot at

stake in making sure they do the right thing. This makes perfect sense, given the importance of such a certification.

Now, let's take a look at the administration's proposed FISA "modernization." That bill will allow the following people to certify applications for court orders under FISA:

The assistant to the President for National Security Affairs or an executive branch official or officials designated by the President to authorize electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes.

So any executive branch official or officials designated by the President can now authorize—or could if this passed—electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the most conservative estimate of the number of people who could be called "executive branch officials" under this definition is 9,050. The number is actually probably greater than that. So, in other words, if the administration had its way, more than 9,000 people would be eligible for designation by the President to certify an application for a warrant to the FISA Court. That is what this chart demonstrates.

Just to give you an idea, over here on this chart, we are talking about individuals—each block represents a person. Here, because the numbers are so big, we have divided by nine. This block represented the existing FISA certification authority to the nine Presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed individuals who qualified, and we reduced it to one. Each one of these blocks would also represent nine, so multiply by nine. I am probably stretching my limits on the floor by using two charts at the same time. If I had to represent this with 9 people here and 9,000 here, I would have charts up to the ceiling of this room. That is the scale they are trying to change this to. By the way, one of these people, again, would be Karl Rove.

What we have is another example of the Bush administration trying to break down established barriers that defend fair, professional, and responsible decisions in national security and in the administration of justice.

Making matters worse, the administration's FISA bill would greatly expand the powers of the Attorney General in a number of key areas.

I don't think I need to say again that this Attorney General has thoroughly and utterly lost my confidence. I think he has also lost the confidence of this Chamber and of the American people. In my view, he does not merit any greater authority, particularly where that authority involves the power of the Federal Government to invade personal privacy for the purpose of secret wiretaps. We gave him that kind of authority when we gave him the authority with the national security letters. Look what he did with it. That authority was "seriously misused." This is the man who has proven he cannot be trusted with these authorities.

The administration's bill would give the Attorney General expanded powers to hold on to information that was obtained without a warrant or obtained unintentionally. It would grant blanket immunity to any person or company that, from September 11 on, provided the intelligence community with any records, facilities, or assistance purportedly intended to protect against a terrorist attack. This blanket immunity power would allow the Attorney General to shut down a number of lawsuits and State investigations looking into whether and how companies provide detailed records about their customers' private communications.

It would allow powers to transfer any case before any court challenging the legality of classified communications intelligence activity, or any case in which the legality of such activity is even an issue, from the court it is filed in to the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. This would be an extraordinary and unprecedented power for the Attorney General to forum-shop by grabbing cases out of open court and placing them before the secret FISA Court.

Finally, it would authorize the Attorney General to conduct surveillance directed toward foreign powers with fewer safeguards to ensure the surveillance will not capture the contents of Americans' communication.

This is just a sampling of the ways in which this bill would expand the Attorney General's authority under that FISA statute. We count at least 10 expansions of power.

Mr. President, the Department of Justice wields some of the most powerful tools held by any Federal agency.

The prosecutive power is probably the most severe power the Government holds. Among these powers is included the power to issue national security letters, the power through U.S. attorneys to prosecute criminal cases, and the power to help administer the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

These awesome powers must be used with competence, independence, and sound judgment. I am afraid the current Attorney General has not lived up to those high standards, and for that reason, I cannot support legislation that would increase this Attorney General's authority.

For that reason, I also call on him again to step down so we can begin to put this sad episode in the history—the proud history—of the Department of Justice behind us.

The Attorney General's resignation will not solve all the problems at the Department of Justice or the White House, but, regrettably, I have come to the conclusion it is a necessary first step.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is my understanding that we are now in morning business; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1369 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this has been a very disappointing week from the standpoint of a discussion about international trade. Yesterday morning, at about 8:30 in the morning, we learned the trade deficit for the previous month has once again spiked up to a \$63.9 billion trade deficit in 1 month. And yet, most of this town continues to say how successful it is, this strategy of free trade.

This what has happened with our trade strategy. This chart represents an ocean of red ink. You can see, going back to 1995, we have had nothing but trouble, increasing deficits year after year. We are deep in debt with respect to our combined trade deficits. This is not a trade strategy that is working.

At about the same time that I learned that our trade deficit spiked up once again to \$63.9 billion in 1 month, I also learned that one of the largest employers in North Dakota, Imation, is leaving our State. They announced they are going to be closing their plant in Wahpeton, ND.

They have actually announced it well ahead of time, and they are not going to be completely gone until the year 2009. It is helpful that we received some advanced notice.

But this is a company that has 390 employees. It produces high-tech products in data storage and so on. Mr. President, 390 workers who are paid well, who have good jobs with good pay and good benefits, facing the prospect of all that disappearing.

I was on the phone yesterday with the CEO of this company, Imation, and asked questions. The company has said to its employees and to me that they are closing down this factory in North

Dakota because it produces floppy disks, and that is yesterday's technology. Floppy disks are on the way out, not on the way in. The market has moved and that is just the fact. So supposedly that has required them to make a decision to close this plant.

Come to find out, though, that only 55 people in a plant of 390 people are making floppy disks. The rest of the employees, of course, are not. They are involved in the production of other things. So it doesn't really make sense that they are closing the plant because of floppy disks.

Yesterday, in a conversation with the president of the company, after a lot of probing, I found out that 168 of the jobs in this plant are in fact going to moved to Juarez, Mexico. Why? Undoubtedly because of low wages paid in Juarez, Mexico. You can produce things less expensively if you are paying people 50 cents an hour, I suppose. But at its root it is exactly what is wrong with what is happening in international trade and our participation in it.

Instead of lifting others up, our entire trade strategy has been a strategy that says it is all right to push the standards in this country down. No, the workers in Wahpeton can't compete with Mexican workers, nor should they be expected to. And by the way, I will bet some others of these jobs will be migrating to China and some other places in Asia.

I am not here to trash a corporation; that is not my point. This company has been a good employer in our State for a long time. But I am very disappointed and very troubled they have announced they are leaving. In the last 5 to 7 years we worked hard to get them Federal Government grants, almost \$3 million in Federal grants, plus a guaranteed Federal loan to expand their plant in Wahpeton, ND. Then, just a few short years later, there is a U-turn in the corporate board room that says they have decided not only are they not going to want to proceed here, they are going to leave.

What about the millions of dollars of grants that we worked to get because we want to support those jobs? This, in a microcosm, is exactly what is going on all across this country. It is Wahpeton this week, but I could name almost any city and you will have the same thing.

I have been on the floor of the Senate many times talking about who is leaving and when and where and why and how. Levis—gone. They don't make any Levis in America. There is not one pair of Levis made in America. Fruit of the Loom underwear—all gone; no underwear made in America by Fruit of the Loom. Fig Newton cookies, they, too, went to Mexico. If you want to eat Mexican food, buy Fig Newton cookies. Radio Flier, Little Red Wagon—gone to China; Huffy bicycles, gone to China.

I could go on forever talking about things. But what happened in Wahpeton, ND, brings it home in a stark way to the people who dressed up

in the morning to go to work, appreciating those jobs, believing those jobs were important in their lives, just to find out that one day they are gone. And at least part of the reason they are gone is they can't compete with people who will work for a whole lot less money in other parts of the world. Should they be required to? Is our strategy to say, after we have built a set of standards for a century in this country, that those standards don't matter because you have to compete against a different standard? And the different standard is what they pay in China, what they pay in Mexico? We can't live on that in this country and that ought not be the standard.

I showed a chart with the red ink in terms of international trade deficits that we have. Our trade deficit last year was \$832 billion. You can make a case with the budget deficit, where the Congress spends more than it takes in—you can make the case from an economics perspective that is money we owe to ourselves. You can't make that case with the trade deficit. That is money we owe to foreigners, and we are going to repay it someday with a lower standard of living in this country. That is a fact.

I wake up and read there is apparently some sort of fiesta at the White House. It is probably appropriately following the Cinco de Mayo period. They gathered together, Republicans and Democrats, and said: We have reached a deal on trade.

So now we have a couple of trade agreements coming up—Peru, Panama, maybe also Colombia and Korea. And we have some folks who got together and said: We reached a deal on trade.

No one I know of in this Chamber has reached a deal on trade. I think there are plenty of voices in this Chamber that will rise in the coming week to say, no, the trade debate has to involve people in this Chamber who know that the current trade strategy doesn't work for this country.

It is not because we don't want to be engaged in trade. We believe in trade, and plenty of it. We support international trade. But we support international trade that is mutually beneficial to us and others. What has happened in recent trade agreements? I come back now to the issue of Mexico. We do a trade agreement with Mexico, and you turn a \$2 billion surplus into an annualized trade deficit now with Mexico—in the first 3 months of this year it is going to be \$70 billion a year, with Mexico. Think of that. We turned a trade surplus with Mexico, a \$2 billion surplus, into a \$70 billion deficit. You talk about incompetence? You talk about bad trade deals? This is the cherry on top of the sundae in bad trade deals.

Among the things they discussed yesterday is Korea. They made brief mention of that today in the paper. You have a couple of problems with Korea, aside from the fact that the agreement was generally negotiated incompetently.

Here is an example of what is wrong with Korea. Mr. President, 99 percent of the automobiles in Korea driven on the streets are made in Korea. Is that an accident? Why is that the case? Because that is the way Korea wants it. They don't want imported vehicles. They want the people of Korea to buy Koreans cars that produce Koreans jobs in the manufacturing marketplace.

Here is what has happened with Korea. Last year we sent Korea 4,200 American cars. That is our export market to Korea. Last year, Korea sent us 730,000 Korean cars to be sold in our marketplace. So Korea said: Load all these cars on ships, send them to America, sell them to American consumers and, by the way, while we send you 730,000 Korean cars, we will limit you to 4,200 American cars coming our way.

You say maybe there is not a market for American cars in Korea. Talk to the folks who try to sell Dodge Dakota pickups and learn that story, and then you will learn what happens with respect to American vehicles that are attempted to be sold in Korea.

Now, in the discussion this morning, I read of the celebration at the White House by Members of the House and the White House, making some sort of deal with respect to Panama, Peru, Colombia, I guess. They talked about labor standards, which I think is very important. In fact, the only trade agreement that has ever had labor standards is the Jordan agreement. The Clinton administration agreed that the free-trade agreement with Jordan would have labor standards.

Well, guess what. Last year there were findings of sweatshops operating underneath the umbrella of a free-trade agreement with supposedly strong labor standards is in Jordan. Laborers were brought over from Bangladesh to sweatshops in Jordan, to turn Chinese materials into garments for sale in the U.S. market. The workers were forced to endure 20-hour days; yes, 20-hour days in sweatshop conditions in a country with whom we have a trade agreement where there are labor standards. These standards mean virtually nothing unless you have enforcement. All of these are just words unless you have enforcement. And this Administration has certainly demonstrated that it has no interest in enforcing labor standards.

The Government of Jordan has taken some steps to try to fix some of these problems. Is that because our U.S. trade officials tried to enforce the labor provisions in the trade agreement? No. It's because a labor rights group called the National Labor Committee exposed these problems, and because the New York Times wrote a front page story about them. So it's not the labor standards in the trade agreement that got the Jordan government to start to do the right thing, because this Administration never tried to enforce those standards. It was the fact that these abuses were independently exposed and held to the light.

These failed trade policies are undermining our country. This is pulling the rug out from under our country.

But this is kind of a Rip Van Winkle moment again. We have an announcement of surging trade deficits, and the Congress just sleeps through it, the White House sleeps through it. Instead of deciding there is a crisis we ought to deal with, we now see a bunch of people going to the White House and embracing, saying: We have got a new agreement between House leaders and the President with respect to how we are going to proceed on certain trade agreements.

Well, let me say to them there is another voice in this Congress, a voice that will come from the Senate. There are some of us that will insist we stand up for the economic interests of this country.

I am not suggesting we are against trade. That is not the case. But we will insist there will be a new day in trade agreements that stand up for our economic interests. That has not been the case to date.

Now, let me finish by going back to the issue of what has happened this week in Wahpeton, ND.

Those workers in Wahpeton, ND, appreciated those jobs; good jobs that paid well with good benefits. I appreciated the company that was there that made those jobs possible. But I do not appreciate the circumstance where we are told one day: It is over. Just a few years after we worked to get substantial Federal grants and guaranteed Federal loans to expand the manufacturing plant, the very plant we are now told is obsolete, or at least the very plant we are now told houses the production that will be moved elsewhere; production that will be moved to Mexico because of lower labor costs.

We did not strive for a century to raise standards in this country just to find them undermined day after day, by 30-cent or 20-cent-an-hour labor in China, or 50-cent-an-hour labor in Mexico. That is not the right approach. It is not an approach that strengthens, it is an approach that weakens our country.

We expanded the middle class in this country over a century by lifting people up. I will not go into great detail about it, but I have told this story 100 times about James Fyler, who died of lead poisoning. He was shot 54 times. That is lead poisoning, I guess. He was shot 54 times. The reason he was shot was because in the early part of the last century, he insisted that people who went into a coal mine to work ought to be able to be paid a fair wage and expected to be working in a safe coal mine; for that he was killed.

Over a century, so many men and women worked to raise standards, to say: People ought to have the right to organize, they ought to have the right to a minimum wage, a safe workplace. Over a century we lifted those standards. It did something important to expand the middle class of this country.

But this is being undermined by the massive trade deficits we are running, the \$836 billion annual deficit we had in 2006, and the nearly \$64 billion trade deficit we ran in March 2007.

I hope one day there will be enough of us in the Congress who will say: Stop. Enough. We are not going to put up with it. We are going to insist and demand that our trade agreements represent the best economic interests of our country. Yes, we want to help others. But most importantly, we want to preserve a standard of living in this country that gives us opportunity for the future.

Let me end by saying, again, I believe in trade. I believe in plenty of trade. I believe we can compete and compete successfully, but the rules have to be fair, and those who negotiate trade agreements have to do so with one eye on how it is going to affect this country.

Regrettably, most of the trade negotiations in the last two and a half decades have been incompetent and I think have pulled the rug out from under America's workers and dumbed down the standards that many have given their lives to create in this country.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk to proceed to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is clear—we all agree—that the immigration system is broken and badly in need of a fix. We have 12 million immigrants, some of who live in constant fear. We have employers facing the quandary each day over who they can hire and who they cannot hire, while raids regularly disrupt and even shut down their businesses. Crops can't be harvested. Produce is dying on the vine because farmers cannot hire enough workers to harvest the crop. Under the current system, there are no winners but lots of losers.

Next Tuesday, right after our weekly party conferences, the Senate will have an opportunity to vote on whether to begin debate on the complex and critical challenge of immigration reform. The bill we debate and eventually pass will give us a chance to strengthen border security, put in place an effective and efficient employer verification system, design a new worker program to take the pressure off the border, and give those 12 million undocumented immigrants the opportunity to come out of the shadows and into the light of day.

Over the past several months, Senators from both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, have spent countless hours negotiating a bipartisan solution to this critical challenge. These Senators have been bargaining in good faith. I believe they are working hard to reach a compromise. I hope they can do that. But if they are not able to reach a new bipartisan agreement, we have an opportunity to move forward on a previous bipartisan piece of legislation. The bill I placed on the calendar is the same bill the Senate passed last year overwhelmingly with 23 Republicans voting in favor of the legislation. Last year's bill was far from perfect. Many of us had misgivings about it—this Senator included—but it is a solid, comprehensive package that will serve as a good start for this year's very important and vital debate. Several of my colleagues have said we should not move forward at this time; let's wait.

Over this weekend, there will be negotiations taking place—the rest of this day, Saturday, Sunday, and I hope Monday—to see if a compromise can be reached. If we put this off a week, the same thing would happen. People would be trying to work something out at the last minute. There has been ample opportunity for people to work out an arrangement. I have asked publicly and privately that the President be involved. Members have put so much time and effort into working on an immigration bill, they certainly should embrace a motion to start debate.

Those who have threatened a filibuster on the motion to proceed I hope will reconsider the threat and understand how illogical it would be not to allow us to proceed. A bill that passed this body last year with 21 Republicans voting for the legislation now saying they are not going to proceed does not make sense to me.

Let me be as clear as I can: By moving this bill, I am trying to make sure negotiations continue. There has been ample time for negotiations to bear fruit. The purpose of this legislation is to move forward on comprehensive immigration reform. I want this Congress to accomplish immigration reform, but we are running out of time to do it. We have set aside the next 2 weeks to do this. After that, we have 4 weeks, and then we have the July 4 recess. After that, 4 more weeks, and then we are into the August recess. There is no more time to do it. Today is the time. If we don't do it, starting next Tuesday, there will be no immigration reform this Congress. That would be a real shame.

The House is waiting for us to do this. As everyone knows, the schedule we have is so crowded. This next 2 weeks, in addition to doing immigration reform, we have to send a bill to the President for supplemental appropriations for the ongoing conflict in Iraq, the civil war in Iraq. We want to try to do our budget. We are going to finish WRDA. We have an energy bill

we have to do. That is keeping in mind all the procedural hurdles that are always present in the Senate.

A vote to proceed is a vote to open debate, not shut the door on it. If a new agreement is reached, it can be offered as a substitute amendment to this bill on the floor at any time. If a new agreement is not reached, we can legislate the old-fashioned way—taking out what people do not like and putting in new stuff. We can offer amendments to the existing bipartisan bill to make it even better than the one we passed last year. Either path leads to progress that is long overdue.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to H.R. 1495 now be agreed to; that on Monday, May 14, at 3 p.m., the Senate begin consideration of the measure and the majority manager, Senator BOXER, then be recognized to offer an amendment.

If I could withhold that, Mr. President, and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as happens so much, a lot of times it appears that we are not doing anything, but the work done this morning off the Senate floor has been invaluable. The distinguished Republican leader and I have had a number of conversations; the last one took place just a few minutes ago here on the Senate floor.

As I indicated in my prepared remarks today, there are a number of Senators, Democrats and Republicans, trying to work something out on immigration. Over the last week or so, they have taken a step forward and three-quarters of a step backward. Progress is being made, but it has been incremental, and it has been slow.

Some of the Senators believe there is a breakthrough that could take place, but they need all day on Tuesday to do that. Staff is going to be working over the weekend with some Senators.

So, reluctantly, but I think in anticipation of the greater good, the Republican leader and I have agreed it would be in the best interests of the Senate to

put the cloture over on the immigration motion to proceed until Wednesday morning. Therefore, I will file cloture on Monday on the motion to proceed on immigration—not today.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2206

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the majority leader, with the concurrence of the Republican leader, may turn to the consideration of H.R. 2206 at any time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 2206 is the Iraq supplemental.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I was distracted. I am confused as to which unanimous consent request was just entered.

Mr. REID. It was the one, I say to my friend, dealing with Iraq. I only indicated just for general information what we were going to do on the immigration matter. This is the House-passed version of the supplemental that we can move to when we decide it is necessary, in spite of the fact that we may be involved, but for this agreement, in the postcloture proceedings.

Mr. MCCONNELL. All right.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the prior statement before was to just alert those Senators who had called asking that we put the vote over that we are going to do that, and we will not vote on cloture on the immigration bill on Tuesday afternoon. We will be able to work all day on Monday and Tuesday on WRDA. Who knows, we may get lucky and be able to complete most of the work or all of the work on that.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me just say with regard to the immigration bill, the only chance to get a bill is on a bipartisan basis. I agree with the decision of the majority leader to accept the recommendation of those who have been involved in that discussion, to give us the maximum opportunity to piece back together the bipartisan agreement that we thought we almost had a week or so ago on this most important legislation.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to H.R. 1495 be agreed to; that on Monday, May 14, the Senate begin consideration of that measure, and that the manager of that bill, Senator BOXER, be recognized to offer an amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR MEASURE TO BE PLACED ON CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate

receives from the House H.R. 2206, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, it be placed on the calendar.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

WRDA PROVISIONS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, during yesterday's discussion of the motion to proceed to the Water Resources Devel-

opment Act, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator BOXER, inserted into the RECORD a chart that shows which Member or Members requested each project-related provision in the WRDA bill. This chart, of course, was our effort to comply with the intent of S. 1, the Legislative Transparency bill. For some of the WRDA provisions, however, it was in fact a particular Member who secured inclusion of the provision in the

bill. Since the chart discloses each request, however, that distinction is not clear. With that in mind, I would like to provide the following list of provisions and the Members who secured them.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the chart to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Section 5003—Environmental infrastructure:

Jackson County, Mississippi (\$12,500,000)	Cochran	Lott.
DeSoto County, Mississippi (\$20,000,000)	Cochran	Lott.
(77) Chattooga County, Georgia (\$8,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(78) Albany, Georgia (\$4,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(79) Moultrie, Georgia (\$5,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(80) Stephens County/City of Toccoa, Georgia (\$8,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(81) Dahlonega, Georgia (\$5,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(82) Banks County, Georgia (\$5,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(83) Berrien County, Georgia (\$5,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(84) City of East Point, Georgia (\$5,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
(85) Armuchee Valley: Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Walker, and Whitfield Counties, Georgia (\$10,000,000).	Chambliss	Isakson.
(86) Atchison, Kansas (\$20,000,000)	Roberts	
(87) Lafourche Parish, Louisiana (\$2,300,000)	Vitter	
(88) South Central Planning and Development Commission, Louisiana (\$2,500,000)	Vitter	
(89) Rapides Area Planning Commission, Louisiana (\$1,000,000)	Vitter	
(90) Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, Louisiana (\$2,000,000)	Vitter	
(91) Lafayette, Louisiana (\$1,200,000)	Vitter	
(92) Lake Charles, Louisiana (\$1,000,000)	Vitter	
(93) Ouachita Parish, Louisiana (\$1,000,000)	Vitter	
(94) Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Project, Louisiana (\$2,000,000)	Vitter	
(95) Central Lake Region Sanitary District, Minnesota (\$2,000,000)	Coleman	
(96) Goodview, Minnesota (\$3,000,000)	Coleman	
(97) Grand Rapids, Minnesota (\$5,000,000)	Coleman	
(98) Willmar, Minnesota (\$15,000,000)	Coleman	
(99) City of Corinth, Mississippi (\$7,500,000)	Cochran	Lott.
(100) Clean Water Coalition, Nevada (\$20,000,000)	Ensign	
(101) Town of Mooresville, North Carolina (\$4,000,000)	Dole	
(102) City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Dole	
(103) Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority, North Carolina (\$4,000,000)	Dole	
(104) Town of Cary/Wake County, North Carolina (\$4,000,000)	Dole	
(105) City of Fayetteville, North Carolina (\$6,000,000)	Dole	
(106) Washington County, North Carolina (\$1,000,000)	Dole	
(107) City of Charlotte, North Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Dole	
(108) City of Ada, Oklahoma (\$1,700,000)	Inhofe	
(109) Norman, Oklahoma (\$10,000,000)	Inhofe	
(110) Eastern Oklahoma State University, Wilberton, Oklahoma (\$1,000,000)	Inhofe	
(111) City of Weatherford, Oklahoma (\$500,000)	Inhofe	
(112) City of Bethany, Oklahoma (\$1,500,000)	Inhofe	
(113) Woodward, Oklahoma (\$1,500,000)	Inhofe	
(114) City of Disney and Langley, Oklahoma (\$2,500,000)	Inhofe	
(115) City of Durant, Oklahoma (\$3,300,000)	Inhofe	
(116) City of Midwest City, Oklahoma (\$2,000,000)	Inhofe	
(117) City of Ardmore, Oklahoma (\$1,900,000)	Inhofe	
(118) City of Guymon, Oklahoma (\$16,000,000)	Inhofe	
(119) Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, Altus, Oklahoma (\$5,000,000)	Inhofe	
(120) City of Chickasha, Oklahoma (\$650,000)	Inhofe	
(121) Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Guymon, Oklahoma (\$275,000)	Inhofe	
(122) City of Bartlesville, Oklahoma (\$2,500,000)	Inhofe	
(123) City of Konawa, Oklahoma (\$500,000)	Inhofe	
(124) City of Mustang, Oklahoma (\$3,325,000)	Inhofe	
(125) City of Alva, Oklahoma (\$250,000)	Inhofe	
(126) Vinton County, Ohio (\$1,000,000)	Voinovich	
(127) Burr Oak Regional Water District, Ohio (\$4,000,000)	Voinovich	
(128) Fremont, Ohio (\$2,000,000)	Voinovich	
(129) Fostoria, Ohio (\$2,000,000)	Voinovich	
(130) Defiance County, Ohio (\$1,000,000)	Voinovich	
(131) Akron, Ohio (\$5,000,000)	Voinovich	
(132) Meigs County, Ohio (\$1,000,000)	Voinovich	
(133) City of Cleveland, Ohio (\$2,500,000)	Voinovich	
(134) Cincinnati, Ohio (\$1,000,000)	Voinovich	
(135) Dayton, Ohio (\$1,000,000)	Voinovich	
(136) Lawrence County, Ohio (\$5,000,000)	Voinovich	
(137) City of Columbus, Ohio (\$4,500,000)	Voinovich	

(138) Beaver Creek Reservoir, Pennsylvania (\$3,000,000)	Specter	
(139) Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (\$10,000,000)	Graham	
(140) Charleston and West Ashley, South Carolina (\$6,000,000)	Graham	
(141) Charleston, South Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Graham	
(142) North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Graham	
(143) Surfside, South Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Graham	
(144) Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation (Dewey and Ziebach Counties) and Perkins and Meade Counties, South Dakota (\$20,000,000)	Thune	
(145) City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee (\$4,000,000)	Alexander	Corker.
(146) Nashville, Tennessee (\$5,000,000)	Alexander	
(147) Counties of Lewis, Lawrence and Wayne, Tennessee (\$2,000,000)	Alexander	
(148) County of Giles, Tennessee (\$2,000,000)	Alexander	
(149) City of Knoxville, Tennessee (\$5,000,000)	Alexander	
(150) Shelby County, Tennessee (\$4,000,000)	Alexander	
(151) Johnson County, Tennessee (\$600,000)	Alexander	
(152) Plateau Utility District, Morgan County, Tennessee (\$1,000,000)	Alexander	
(153) City of Harrogate, Tennessee (\$2,000,000)	Alexander	
(154) Hamilton County, Tennessee (\$500,000)	Alexander	
(155) Grainger County, Tennessee (\$1,250,000)	Alexander	
(156) Claiborne County, Tennessee (\$1,250,000)	Alexander	
(157) Blaine, Tennessee (\$500,000)	Alexander	
(158) Chesapeake Bay (\$30,000,000)	Warner	
Section 5004:		
Alaska (\$15,000,000):	Stevens	Murkowski.
Section 5012:		
Big Creek, Georgia, Watershed Management and Restoration Program (\$5,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
Section 5013:		
Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (\$20,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
Section 5014:		
Idaho, Montana, Rural Nevada, New Mexico, Rural Utah, and Wyoming (Idaho—\$30,000,000; Utah—\$25,000,000; Wyoming—\$30,000,000).	Craig, (ID) Thomas (WY)	Bennett (UT), Crapo (ID).
Section 5017:		
Southeast Louisiana Region, Louisiana (\$17,000,000)	Vitter	
Section 5018:		
Mississippi (\$10,000,000)	Cochran	Lott.
Section 5021:		
North Carolina (\$13,000,000)	Burr	
Section 5022:		
Ohio River Basin Environmental Management (\$2,500,000)	Lugar	
Section 5023:		
Statewide Comprehensive Water Planning, Oklahoma (\$6,500,000)	Inhofe	
Section 5025:		
Texas (\$40,000,000)	Hutchison	Cornyn.

HONORING MOTHERS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Sunday, May 13, is Mother's Day. Motherhood and May are a perfect pairing of all that is warm and nurturing. The earth is soft and green, with the buds of new leaves and new life appearing everywhere. Birds fill the air with their love songs and flowers scent the breezes with their soft perfumes. All around us, if we but look, we see the signs of happy motherhood, from the ducklings in a neat line behind their mother on a pond to calves curled up asleep by their mother's feet in deep green pastures. In neighborhood parks, mothers bring their toddlers out to play in the sunshine before their afternoon naps or push sleeping newborns in strollers along shade-dappled paths. In the springtime, the great cycle of life is at its fullest flow.

On this one lovely spring Sunday, the Nation heeds the Biblical admonition to "honor thy mother." It is an opportunity to make up for those times all year that we may have overlooked our own mother's contributions to our well-being, or snapped at her well-meaning advice and loving attempts to straighten our collars and smooth our hair. Such is the lot of mothers—to be essential but so often unappreciated.

Mothers are like water—without a mother, life could not exist, while not enough mothering can stunt growth like a plant in a desert, but too much mothering can be as smothering as floodwaters on a field of corn.

Motherhood is a delicate high-wire act, balancing love and discipline, care and independence, attention and self-reliance. It is time consuming, often stressful, unpaid, and with no promotion and little recognition. It is a Sisyphean task. Yet mothers persevere, rising each day to begin anew, building families with every meal they prepare, every schedule they coordinate, every book they read with their children, every dirty sock they collect and transform into clean and folded laundry. It takes strong women to do it well and to keep up the effort over the many years of childrearing, for this is not a job that one can hand in a resignation letter or shop around a resume to find a better position. It is a job that is truly what a mother makes of it, for good or for ill. "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world," observed W.R. Wallace.

Many great men have noted the influence of their mothers. George Washington wrote that "All I am I owe to my mother." Abraham Lincoln said

that "I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." Booker T. Washington said that ". . . If I have done anything in my life worth attention, I feel sure that I inherited the disposition from my mother." Andrew Jackson observed that "The memory of my mother and her teachings were, after all, the only capital I had to start life with, and on that capital I have made my way." Their mothers' hands surely influenced the world through their mothering.

Most mothers will tell you that childrearing does not end after their children are officially grown up, either. Mothers remain a constant in the lives of their offspring for years afterward, sometimes actively involved and sometimes waiting in the background in case they are needed. The strains of sustaining the military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in many more military families calling upon grandmothers and grandfathers to raise their grandchildren while their military parents are deployed overseas for long periods. Strong families and loving mothers make this possible, if not desirable.

Often mothers with children also find themselves taking up a new and

unnamed role as mother to their own mother as she ages. Single women, too, can become mothers in this way, picking up more and more of the care of their aging parents. The willingness and love with which children care for their parents is a direct reflection of how good a job their parents did raising them. The writer Charlotte Gray observed that "Children and mothers never truly part—bound in the beating of each other's heart." It is just that sometimes, the roles of mother and child, caretaker and care-receiver, reverse. And while it can be sad to see one's mother failing, the burden of her care is lightened by the warm memories of all the nights her hands tucked in the bedcovers or checked a forehead for fever, and by all the prayers her lips have uttered on her child's behalf.

Mr. President, I close with a poem by an unknown author, entitled "Mother's Love":

MOTHER'S LOVE

Her love is like an island
In life's ocean, vast and wide
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From the wind, the rain, the tide.
'Tis bound on the north by Hope,
By Patience on the West,
By tender Counsel on the South,
And on the East by Rest.
Above it like a beacon light
Shine Faith, and Truth, and Prayer;
And thro' the changing scenes of life
I find a haven there.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LILY STEVENS, THE LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, last month, this Chamber celebrated a milestone day in the life of our dear colleague, Senator TED STEVENS. On April 13, the senior Senator from Alaska became the longest serving Republican Senator in history. This was an important day for him. It was an historic day for us.

But having served in this Chamber with Senator STEVENS for more than four decades, and knowing him as I do, I feel confident that, in a few days, he will be celebrating what to him will be an even more important day. This Saturday, May 12, his lovely, talented, and beloved daughter Lily will graduate from law school. She will receive her Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to Lily, whom I know quite well. I remember her as an infant when her father carried her around the Capitol in a basket. I remember attending the birthday parties that her father gave her. I enjoyed watching her grow up. Now she is the graduate of one of our Nation's most prestigious law schools. And she is ready to embark upon what I am confident will be a rewarding, productive, and most successful career.

Knowing Lily as I do, I am sure that she will see her graduation, not as the end, but as just another step in her

educational endeavors. As Solon, one of the seven wise men of Greece, observed, "I grow old in the pursuit of learning." Although Lily is a young woman, I am confident that she will grow old "in pursuit of learning."

Today, I congratulate her and wish her the best as she completes an important milestone in her education and her life, and embarks upon the next endeavor.

And I also congratulate her father, Senator TED STEVENS.

ABUSIVE LITIGATION IN AMERICA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about abusive litigation in America. Unfortunately, many personal injury lawyers' insatiable appetites for a big payday by any theory imaginable are never satisfied, and so I come yet again to speak about tort reform—an issue I have worked on nearly every year that I have been in the Senate.

Earlier this week, as part of an ongoing effort to bring much-needed reform to our civil-justice system, I reintroduced the Commonsense Consumption Act with Senators PRYOR, GRAHAM, BAUCUS, CORNYN, LINCOLN, ALEXANDER, DOLE, and BUNNING.

When I first introduced the Commonsense Consumption Act in July of 2003, the effort by some unscrupulous personal injury lawyers to target food manufacturers and sellers was only beginning to take shape.

In fact, I noted at that time an article in the satirical newspaper "The Onion." This newspaper had gotten a big laugh through a spoof article entitled "Hershey's Ordered to Pay Obese Americans \$135 Billion."

The article poked fun at the worst excesses of plaintiff's attorneys, describing a class-action suit that accused the candy company of "knowingly and willfully marketing rich, fatty candy bars, containing chocolate and other ingredients of negligible nutritional value."

That spoof was published in August of 2000. But almost 7 years later, farce has become reality.

Frivolous lawsuits against the food industry are moving forward on a number of different fronts and a growing cadre of academics, overzealous public health advocates, and of course, personal injury lawyers, are forthright about their intentions to make food manufacturers and sellers the victims of their next huge payday.

One of the more prominent members of the movement to sue the food industry is John Banzhaf, a personal injury attorney and a professor. Banzhaf appears often in the media to discuss strategies for suing food producers and sellers.

In one appearance, Banzhaf told an interviewer in regard to obesity lawsuits:

[Y]ou may not like it . . . but we'll find a judge. And then we'll find a jury.

During another interview, Banzhaf proclaimed:

. . . we're going to sue them and sue them and sue them, and I think ultimately, as with tobacco, we're going to win.

The comparison of this litigation to the tobacco suits is apt, because trial attorneys are eager to find another industry to bear the burden of inflating their bank accounts. As Banzhaf told National Public Radio:

. . . when we proposed that the states would sue for the cost of health care for lung cancer, heart attack and so on, people thought the lawyers bringing those suits were crazy. They called them crazy. Today, we call them something else. We call them multimillionaires, because, as you know, they won over \$250 billion.

Indeed, a great deal of time and energy is being invested into strategies to transfer huge sums from the food industry to overeating plaintiffs and, more to the point, their exceedingly active lawyers.

But these lawsuits are not only about money. They also represent attempts by a small group of lawyers and special-interest groups to subvert the legislative process and impose by litigation what they cannot achieve at the ballot box. In 1999, Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, said that, "The era of big government may be over, but the era of regulation by litigation has just begun."

Last November, a group calling itself the Public Health Advocacy Institute held its fourth annual conference regarding obesity litigation.

This is the same Public Health Advocacy Institute whose 2004 Conference featured a memorable overhead projection display proclaiming "Patience, hell. Let's sue somebody." And these groups will sue, and they will sue, and they will sue, until they have imposed their special-interest policy preferences on the rest of America.

This kind of reckless litigation cannot be allowed to continue. A Gallup poll found that 89 percent of Americans oppose holding the food industry legally responsible for the diet-related health problems of people who choose to eat fast-food on a regular basis.

The economic repercussions of this sort of frivolous litigation are very real. In fact, the food industry is one of the most important engines for our Nation's economy. The food retail sector of the industry is America's largest private-sector employer, providing jobs and livelihoods for more than 12 million Americans. Estimates suggest that the food industry is responsible for 4 percent of the United States GDP.

Nor is this an industry dominated by a small number of large market participants. Numerous mom-and-pop grocery stores, family-owned and operated restaurants, specialty producers, and other small businesses will find themselves in the crosshairs of the personal injury lawyers trying to cash in on obesity-related lawsuits.

Wayne Reaves, an entrepreneur who operates seven quick-service restaurants in the Northern Alabama region, testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative

Oversight and the Courts on the dangers that obesity lawsuits pose for small businesses. Mr. Reaves gave compelling testimony about the catastrophic effects that such a lawsuit could have on him and his 196 employees. He then noted an even more insidious cost of obesity lawsuits:

But beyond the costs of defending a potential suit and the risks to my business that go along with it, there are other significant and detrimental effects. For instance, the mere threat of such a suit can have a direct impact on the cost of insuring my business. Insurance companies have acknowledged that they are watching these lawsuits very closely, and they recognize that this litigation is very much a factor in how they may price future liability products for food companies.

Mr. Reaves' testimony is especially important, because it highlights the fact that much more is at stake in the obesity lawsuit debate than the transfer of huge monetary sums from businesses to wealthy trial lawyers. If the mere threat of these lawsuits is not removed, then economic ripples will negatively impact every sector of the food industry. Even the ordinary consumer will feel this impact in the form of higher retail prices.

These lawsuits may even have the perverse effect of exacerbating the problems of overweight Americans. By trying to assign responsibility for overeating to food producers and sellers, the obesity lawsuit movement may be actively discouraging the kind of personal responsibility needed for Americans to develop healthier eating habits.

Let me be clear: This bill is not intended to minimize the problem of overeating. In fact, overweight Americans need to design healthier lifestyles for themselves and their children. America is blessed with an abundant, affordable food supply and an overwhelming number of food choices. With so many food choices, some of us overdo it.

That overindulgence, combined with an underindulgence of exercise, can have negative health consequences. But most of us take responsibility for the amount and the type of food we put in our mouth, and we accept the consequences of these decisions.

Unfortunately, some personal injury lawyers are now trying to convince Americans with expanding waistlines that someone else is to blame for their weight problem. This is precisely the wrong message to send to Americans who may be struggling with their weight.

Dr. Gerard J. Musante is an adjunct professor at Duke University and founder of Structure House, a well-known and highly respected residential weight loss center in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Musante has testified before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that he was concerned about the message sent to overweight Americans by litigation related to obesity.

Dr. Musante's viewpoint on this issue is worth our full attention. Specifically, he testified that:

Lawsuits are pointing fingers at the food industry in an attempt to curb the nation's

obesity epidemic. These lawsuits do nothing but enable consumers to feel powerless in a battle for maintaining one's own personal health. The truth is, we as consumers have control over the food choices we make, and we must issue our better judgment when making these decisions. Negative lifestyle choices cause obesity, not a trip to the fast food restaurant or a cookie high in trans fat. Certainly we live in a litigious society. Our understanding of psychological issues tells us that when people feel frustrated and powerless, they lash out and seek reasons for their perceived failure. They feel the victim and look for the deep pockets to pay. Unfortunately, this has become part of our culture, but the issue is far too comprehensive to lay blame on any single food marketer or manufacturer. These industries should not be demonized for providing goods and services demanded by our society.

Dr. Musante is absolutely right, and this bill is designed to ensure that an individual's eating habits do not become the province of our already overcrowded judicial system.

The bill is narrowly tailored to apply only to frivolous lawsuits seeking to shift responsibility for unhealthy lifestyle choices. It acknowledges that weight gain and its consequences have numerous interrelated causes, including genetic factors, physical activity, and other lifestyle choices unrelated to consumption of food manufactured or sold by a specific restaurant or corner store.

It is not intended to limit a plaintiff's ability to pursue legal action against food manufacturers or sellers who are found to be engaged in wrongdoing. In fact, let me be clear about what this bill will not do:

It would not affect lawsuits against food manufacturers or sellers that knowingly and willfully violate Federal or State statutes applicable to the manufacture or sale of food. This means that suits based on knowing misrepresentations regarding nutritional information or other statements would not be precluded by this bill.

It would not apply to lawsuits for breach of contract or express warranty.

It would not apply to claims relating to "adulterated" food or provide immunity to restaurants that improperly store, handle, or prepare food leading to an illness.

It would not apply to claims stemming from the use of dietary supplements.

In short, it will not provide widespread legal immunity for the food industry. It only provides protection from abusive lawsuits by people seeking to blame someone else for their poor eating habits.

I should mention that in the 109th Congress, the House voted on similar legislation. That bill, entitled the "Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act," passed the House on October 19, 2005, by the overwhelming margin of 306-120.

In our overly litigious society, this bill delivers an important message about personal responsibility. Americans have the freedom to make choices about the food they want to eat, and

those choices cannot be litigated away. Frivolous lawsuits are not a substitute for the considered judgment of legislatures and regulatory agencies about the best ways to encourage healthy lifestyles that include a proper diet and exercise.

I hope my colleagues will join me in taking an important step to preserve common sense in the judicial system.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS KATIE SOENKSEN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I announce to the Senate that one of Iowa's own, PFC Katie Soenksen of Davenport, has given her life in service to her country in Iraq. My thoughts and prayers are with her parents, Mary Ann and Ronald Soenksen, her brother and sister, and all her family and friends as they grieve her loss. Katie is one of many members of her extended family who have served their country in the military, and she felt a calling to military service. She even visited her former high school, Davenport North, to recruit for the Army. She joined the Army knowing full well what sacrifices she might be asked to make, but she believed in what she was doing and in her mission in Iraq. Katie kept in regular contact with her family and reported about the tremendous good she and her fellow soldiers were doing to make better the lives of everyday Iraqis. Certainly the Iraqi citizens whose lives she helped to improve, as well as all Americans, whose security she has helped ensure, owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. Our Nation is truly blessed to have such citizens as Katie Soenksen who are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and I am proud to call her an Iowan. Words cannot adequately express the thanks owed to her and her family, who feel her loss so deeply. Her ashes will now rest alongside her fellow patriots at the National Cemetery on Arsenal Island, and her soul is no doubt in heaven.

GENETIC TESTING

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I wish to comment about an amendment that I offered to the bill, S. 1082, that the Senate passed on Wednesday.

Researchers and clinicians continue to make significant advancements in personalized medicine. The ability to diagnose, evaluate disease susceptibility, and provide medical treatment at an individual level is made possible by powerful tools such as genetic testing, an essential component of personalized medicine. Given the complex nature of genetic testing, I am pleased that my amendment, No. 1041, to the bill was accepted. This amendment provides for a study by the highly regarded Institute of Medicine, which will give independent, renowned, and respected experts in genetics,

genomics, and related fields the opportunity to provide their thoughtful recommendations on the best ways to further the promise of personalized medicine.

I thank the bill managers and their staffs for their assistance.

RISK OF GUNS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in order to get a handle on today's gun violence among students, we must increase our awareness on the issue. Last week, the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence released a report that draws attention to the gun lobby's efforts over the past few years to change college campus rules that prohibit firearms. The report details the gun lobby's efforts in multiple States to pressure colleges to allow the possession and use of firearms by students and others on campus.

The report, "No Gun Left Behind: The Gun Lobby's Campaign to Push Guns into Colleges and Schools," reveals a letter addressed to a Maine legislator from the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action on April 2, 2007, emphatically opposing legislation to "allow any college or university to regulate the possession of firearms on the property of the college or university." It also describes the gun lobby's support for a law passed in Utah that expressly prohibits public school districts, public schools, and State institutions of higher education from keeping guns off campuses. Similar legislation was proposed in Virginia last year.

"Our schools should be sanctuaries, not armed camps," stated Paul Helmke, President of the Brady Center. "Institutions of higher education already have chosen policies either banning or tightly controlling guns on campus. That is as it should be. These institutions are responsible for the safety of their students and the security of their campuses and should continue to have the right to control firearms."

No Gun Left Behind also details some of the reasons bringing guns onto campus increases the danger to students and faculty alike. Every year approximately 1,100 college students commit suicide, with an additional 24,000 attempting suicide. Roughly 90 percent of those who attempt suicide with a firearm are successful. And, there is a significant danger of guns being stolen in the dorm setting.

As Congress considers sensible gun legislation, I urge my colleagues to read this important report.

MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women that serve our Nation as military spouses. I greatly admire the strength, courage, and commitment of these special individuals.

In 1984, President Ronald Regan recognized the vital importance and personal sacrifice of the military spouse by declaring the Friday before Mother's Day as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. The impact that the military spouse has on the readiness and effectiveness of today's all-volunteer Armed Forces cannot be overstated.

However, military spouses are rarely thanked or recognized for the vital role that they play in maintaining our national security.

Today, more than 50 percent of our total force is married. Of the 1.12 million military spouses 92 percent are women, 78 percent are enlisted spouses, 57 percent are between the ages of 25-40 years, 73 percent have children, and 65 percent also work outside of the home.

The Armed Forces' current operational tempo has placed unique challenges and extraordinary strain on our military families. Months of waiting and late nights filled with worry about a forward deployed loved one can take a toll on the most steadfast and stout-hearted man or woman. Despite this intense strain, military spouses have remained committed and loyal to their servicemember and families. These men and women know the true meaning of sacrifice and devotion.

Today, America says thank you to our loving military spouses.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the hard work and sacrifices made daily by law enforcement officers all across our great land. Many officers have lost their lives in the line of duty so that our families and communities may remain safe. We must never forget those who have given their lives to protect us all.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy first declared the annual celebration of Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week in "recognition of the service given by the men and women who, night and day, stand guard in our midst to protect us through enforcement of our laws."

Sadly, since the turn of the last century, more than 126 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in New Mexico. This year, two New Mexico police officers will be honored and remembered by having their names added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC.

The first, Deputy James McGrane was tragically shot and killed on March 22, 2006 while making a traffic stop. Unknown at the time to Deputy McGrane, the driver of the vehicle Michael Paul Astorga was wanted for a 2005 murder. As he approached the vehicle, Deputy McGrane was cold bloodedly shot twice and died at the scene. A massive manhunt in New Mexico ensued. After the case was profiled on the television show Americas Most Wanted Astorga was apprehended in Juarez, Mexico and expedited to the

United States. Deputy McGrane had served with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department for three years and had previously served with the New Mexico State Police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Also being honored this week is Patrolman James Archuleta of Espanola who was killed June 4, 2006, in an automobile accident. Patrolman Archuleta was responding to a shooting when the accident occurred. Patrolman Archuleta had served with the New Mexico State Police for 2 years and was also a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

This week we remember the dedication of Deputy McGrane and Patrolman Archuleta and all of our fallen policemen and women who protect and serve our communities, and the tragic price they paid for that devotion. We must also remember the families of all fallen officers and the sacrifices they have incurred because of a deep-seated commitment to duty and public service. All of us from New Mexico owe a debt of gratitude to each and every officer who has lost their life in the line of duty. To those who continue to serve, we are grateful. You have my utmost admiration.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, due to my flight from Rhode Island being delayed, I was unavoidably absent for vote No. 151, the Cochran second-degree amendment No. 1010 to the Dorgan amendment No. 990.

Had I been present, I would have opposed the Cochran amendment. While I have supported the Cochran amendment in the past, the amendment this time seeks to amend a different and vastly strengthened Dorgan reimportation proposal. Senators DORGAN and SNOWE have acknowledged the safety concerns that have been raised in the past and have sought to address them. Specifically, their amendment establishes a framework for the registration and regulation of exporting pharmacies and wholesalers. It also directs the FDA to initiate a process to approve identical medications as FDA-approved products in the United States. The amendment also requires clear labeling and documentation of the drug from the point of origin to the point of sale. I believe these series of measures greatly improve the Dorgan amendment, reduce the risk of counterfeit products entering the domestic drug supply chain, and assure the safety of reimported drugs. The Dorgan-Snowe proposal also meets the second test set forth in the Cochran second degree amendment—cost savings. According to Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimates, implementation of prescription drug importation provisions would lead to \$50 million in direct savings. However, the CBO also found that imposing the Cochran amendment would reduce those potential savings to zero.

The time has come for Congress to move forward with a thoughtful and responsible framework for drug reimportation. In a free market economy such as ours, it seems unfair that we have permitted a system that only allows the manufacturers to reimport drug products. It is essential that we find ways to reduce drug prices for Americans and one approach is by allowing drug reimportation. As such, we can and should, with the appropriate safeguards, allow a more open prescription drug reimportation regime to take hold in this country. The Dorgan-Snowe proposal offers a reasonable and responsible framework for such an endeavor to begin.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I will be unable to be in Washington from Tuesday, May 15, to Wednesday, May 16, due to the graduation of my daughter from Columbia University in New York. I therefore ask that I be granted leave from the Senate under rule VI, paragraph 2.

WACHOVIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Wachovia Championship golf tournament and its contribution to charitable causes in North Carolina.

Several years ago, a group of North Carolinians gathered to begin the planning for this first-class event. Under their leadership, the Wachovia Championship has quickly risen to the top echelon of sporting events in the country. In only 5 short years, the Wachovia Championship has become known as one of the preeminent golf tournaments in the country—second only to the major championships.

The organizers desired to create a premier sporting event that would provide a first-class experience for patrons, PGA tour players, and volunteers that at the same time would have a significant economic impact for the Carolinas, showcase our State and region to a national and international television audience, and most importantly, raise significant funds for charitable causes in the State.

On all accounts, the Wachovia Championship has been a resounding success story. This year alone, the Wachovia Championship will have an economic impact of over \$45 million in the state of North Carolina.

The primary beneficiary of the success of the Wachovia Championship is Teach for America. Funds generated from the tournament are used to support the national efforts of this organization. Teach for America is the national corps of outstanding college graduates who commit 2 years to teach in low-income communities and become advocates for expanding educational opportunity. Since 1990 nearly 17,000 college graduates have joined Teach for America, impacting the lives of over 2.5 million students.

In North Carolina, Teach for America has over 250 corps members teaching in Charlotte, Durham and communities across the eastern half of the State.

Since the inception of the tournament, over \$4 million has been generated for Teach for America from the success of the Wachovia Championship in Charlotte.

As you can see, this is much more than just a golf tournament. The Wachovia Championship is a community and economic success story.

I congratulate the organizers and the thousands of volunteers that make the Wachovia Championship one of the special events that makes our state of North Carolina proud.

HONORING DEE SARTON

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as you know, the month of May is Foster Care Month, when we take special note of the young people served by our Nation's foster care system, and the dedicated volunteers and professionals who work with and for them.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to a fellow Idahoan who is making a tremendously positive difference in the lives of foster children in our State.

Dee Sarton is a reporter at KTVB News Channel 7. Since November 1998, she has used her talent and experience to produce segments promoting the adoption of children out of the foster care system. On Wednesday nights, just before signing off the early evening news, she introduces sibling groups or older youth who are waiting for adoptive homes, and her compelling, sensitive interviews with these young people have touched the hearts of families across the Nation. She has introduced more than 500 children and has partnered with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in helping them find stability and love through adoption.

Dee brings energy, intuition, and a sincere concern for the future of each child to each production day. Although these young people have troubled histories and range from the gregarious to the shy, she manages to form an immediate bond with them. Her empathy and patience come from an abiding desire to help them achieve the normalcy they have described over and over in similar ways: "I just want to be treated like a regular kid."

For her outstanding work on behalf of Idaho's youth, I nominated Dee Sarton to receive the 2006 "Angel in Adoption" award presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, and I am very proud to share her story with my colleagues today.

RECOGNIZING RALEIGH TIAHRT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Raleigh Tiahart, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Raleigh is a graduate of Vermillion High School in Vermillion, SD. Currently he is attending the University of Minnesota where he is pursuing majors in mathematics and philosophy. He plans to finish his education at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Raleigh for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING SARA KOCH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Sara Koch, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Sara is a graduate of Custer High School in Custer, SD. Currently she is attending South Dakota State University where she is pursuing majors in business and political science. She has also been active in Teenage Republicans and College Republicans. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sara for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ARMY RESERVES

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a special group of Americans—the members of Company B, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. The dedication and patriotism of this Army Reserve unit from Olathe, KS, truly makes all Kansans and Americans proud.

In October 2005, Pakistan suffered a severe disaster when a 7.6-magnitude earthquake devastated the country. This unit, known as the Spartans, was in the midst of training at Fort Sill, OK, to prepare for its deployment to Afghanistan when they received orders to assist in the humanitarian relief efforts. The unit immediately responded by disassembling their entire fleet of Chinook helicopters, flying to Afghanistan where they reassembled their aircraft, and then deploying to Islamabad to participate in relief efforts. All this was accomplished in a mere 4 days—a phenomenal feat. During the 5 months of this operation, the Spartans flew 2,633 missions where they delivered more than 18 million pounds of supplies, transported almost 7,000 refugees, and medically evacuated 311 casualties. This mission proved to be the longest and largest helicopter relief mission in the history of the United States.

Following their relief mission, the unit deployed to Afghanistan to provide heavy-lift support for combat operations at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan. During their 7-month

deployment, the unit contributed to three major offensive operations by transporting troops and supplies in some of the most difficult conditions for aviation operations.

In early October 2006, the unit returned to Pakistan for Operation Promise Keeping, a mission to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the earthquake. The unit delivered more than 87 tons of steel sheets, cement, and construction materials to help with rebuilding efforts in Pakistan.

This weekend, at the Army Aviation Association of America's annual convention, the unit is being recognized as the Army Reserve Aviation Unit of the Year. The Pakistani people will forever remember the servant hearts of these military members. It is with an overwhelming sense of gratitude that I wish to recognize these fine service members and their families for their dedication to the cause of freedom and congratulate them on their much deserved award.●

RETIREMENT OF MARGARET SPRING

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a member of my staff who retired from service to the Senate after dedicating 8 years to the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Margaret Spring, Democratic general counsel for the Commerce Committee, left the Senate for love. In doing so, she will be leaving behind a record of accomplishment that will be difficult for anyone to match. During her 8-year tenure on the committee, more than 10 major ocean and coastal initiatives, which she was heavily involved in drafting, have been enacted into law, including the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization, the Oceans and Human Health Act, Coast Guard Reauthorization Acts, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act, the Tsunami Preparedness Act, and the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act. Probably most notable are the first and last pieces of legislation Margaret worked on. The first was the Oceans Act of 2000, and the final bill was the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act.

What is clear from the passage of all these bills is both Margaret's ability to successfully negotiate and work in a bipartisan fashion, regardless of whether she was in the minority or the majority, and her unwavering commitment to making the world we live in a better place for today and for the future. Her trustworthiness and constant striving for perfection provided a process where every staffer who worked with her believed the final product was a true reflection of negotiations and discussions, and the outside parties that had an interest in the legislation, whether environmental or industry groups, while not necessarily agreeing

completely with the ultimate outcome, felt like their voices were heard. The best example of her abilities is the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which passed by unanimous consent with support from the fishing industry and environmental groups, a rarity in this day.

A hallmark of Margaret's legacy will be a cleaner and healthier environment for generations to come. The Oceans Act, which passed in 2000, created the Ocean Commission, consisting of this country's leading ocean experts. Without the legislation enacted through her efforts, Congress and the administration would be without a landmark blueprint. Margaret's work, in combination with efforts of other dedicated members and staff, has given us guideposts for what we must do to sustain the ocean environment for future generations.

While Margaret has left the Senate, she has not left her call to public service, to preserving the coastal environment, or to improving the planet for the next generation. While she and her new husband have decided to move to the West coast, she also decided to continue her passionate interest in the marine environment with a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve environmental diversity through the protection of lands and waters. The Commerce Committee, the Senate, and this country have benefited from Margaret's dedication during the past 8 years, and while she will be missed, the country will continue to benefit from her commitment, dedication, and tireless efforts to improve the world we live in.

On the eve of Margaret Spring's wedding to Mark Bunter, we wish her well as she embarks on a new chapter of her life.●

TRIBUTE TO GREG STEVENS

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the late Gregory Clark Stevens—an incredible political strategist, loyal Republican, wonderful husband and father and a terrific friend to me and my wife Janet.

Last month, our Lord took Greg from us after 58 years on Earth. Greg's last days weren't easy on him or his family as he suffered from brain cancer. But he was able to find an inner peace that I know helped him in his final days.

Looking back, Greg had a full and accomplished career—a career that led to many people, including myself, getting elected and doing immense good for our Nation.

After graduating from the University of Maine in 1971, he spent half a decade as a reporter in New Jersey, and was then hired as President Gerald Ford's reelection campaign press secretary. He was hired by former New Jersey assemblyman turned campaign manager for Ford, Thomas Kean. Kean later returned to New Jersey and, after a defeat running for the same office, he was later elected Governor and hired Greg to be his communications director.

When Kean was reelected in 1981 he made Greg his chief of staff.

A fellow Ohioan, Roger Ailes, hired Greg in 1988 to work on Vice President George H.W. Bush's campaign for the Presidency. Then, 2 years later, Greg ran my successful campaign to be Governor of the great State of Ohio.

A few years later Greg opened his own consulting business in the Washington suburbs and had many clients. I remained one of them, with Greg running my multimedia campaign in 1994 for my second term as Governor, then in 1998 and 2004 for my current Senate seat. He did a marvelous job and we became good friends. And it meant a great deal to Janet and me that we had someone working with us who cared so much about us personally. We always said hiring Greg was the best decision we ever made.

But it was his genuine caring for me and my family that translated into his incredible television ads that helped get and keep me elected. Greg always "got us," we used to say, and got our values. And he communicated those values through his commercials in a way that no one else could.

Over the years Greg has worked for many famous people and been involved in numerous historic and epic political battles. But that is not how I really remember him. I remember Greg as a fine man and good friend.

As time goes on and we get older, and our families seem to grow and grow, our free time seems to shrink more and more. So there wasn't a lot of time for me to make it up to Maine to see my friend Greg. But I did take the time to send him a letter right before he passed.

In that letter I reminded him of the good work he did on behalf of me and the Nation, and about how I cherished our friendship and fighting the good fight together, but also about how worried I am about our kids and grandkids and what kind of opportunities they will have in the future. I told him I would love to talk to him about these things again soon but, unfortunately, time ran out.

Greg Stevens meant a lot to a lot of people. And he did so much good while he was with us here on Earth.

A minister's son, I know Greg found comfort knowing this life was not all there was. I concluded my letter to Greg with this: "I'm sure you are comforted by the thought that you will be with our Father, eternally happy, and that one day we all will be together again."

I look forward to seeing my good friend Greg once again.●

HONORING DEL GREENFIELD

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, those of us entrusted to represent our States in the Senate are so unbelievably fortunate thanks to the wonderful people we meet and work with along the way. These encounters remind us on a regular basis of the inherent goodness of

so many folks, and of their dedication to making our communities, our Nation and our world a better place in which to live and raise families. Today I pay tribute to one such person—a very special person—I was blessed to have met along the way.

Del Greenfield, who passed away just last month, was an extraordinary wife, mother, and citizen whose uncommon commitment to humankind and peace touched thousands of people and enriched our world in ways that will ripple across generations for as long as we humans will inhabit this Earth.

I met Del and her husband, Lou, long ago when I was running the Grey Panthers in Oregon. She was a well-known political activist and worked for some outstanding public servants, including Governor Bob Straub and my former colleague, Congressman Les AuCoin. In the early eighties, Del began to lead the Portland chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and it was there that she made a profound and unforgettable impression on so many government leaders who played a role in deciding matters of war and peace, equality and inequality, justice and injustice.

She was well known to those of us in public office for several reasons. We all came to respect her tremendous command of grassroots politics. She harbored an unflinching belief in the power of people to effect change, and she was quite skillful at organizing her troops and using the strength of the many to overcome the sometimes unnatural advantages of the most fortunate few.

She was also unforgettable because of her unyielding, boundless passion for her beliefs and her mission. Del was full of praise for us when she approved of what we were up to—and thankfully, that was most of the time with me—but she never, ever gave up when we took an action she disagreed with. Even when that disagreement had long passed, Del continued to view those disappointments as potential teachable moments, as opportunities for our growth. On those occasions, Del could chew on you pretty good, but if she liked you, she always did it with a smile on her lips and a twinkle in her eyes. She frequently forgave, but she never forgot.

And, importantly, and this was perhaps the root of her high standing with all of us, there was never any doubt about Del's motives. If she possessed any ego, I never encountered it. The one thing I always knew about Del, even on those rare occasions where we disagreed, was that it was never about her. She was inherently decent and kind and involved in all of her causes for all the right reasons.

I am so proud to have had Del and Lou as two of my earliest supporters and am so honored to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from such a wonderful, powerful woman. She and Lou leave to us all a legacy of hope and goodness that will be carried on for

generations to come by her wonderful children, their grandchildren, their great grandchildren, and the thousands of others who have been touched by their loving, good works.

Because I know she is still watching me closely, and because I know she could care less about how many nice things I have to say about her, Del, I will think of you every opportunity I get to end this misguided war in Iraq. And I will think of you every time I have an opportunity to bring about lasting peace, justice, and equality. Your lessons and love will never be forgotten.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:01 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Chiappardi, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1684. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1873. An act to reauthorize the program and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1684. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1873. An act to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1368. A bill to amend the Denali Commission Act of 1998 to modify the authority of the Commission; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KYL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1369. A bill to grant immunity from civil liability to any person who voluntarily notifies appropriate security personnel of suspicious activity believed to threaten transportation safety or security or takes reasonable action to mitigate such activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure more investment and innovation in clean energy technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 1371. A bill to establish a program to award innovation prizes to individuals and

entities for researching and developing innovative technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 1372. A bill to provide for a Center for Nanotechnology Research and Engineering; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 1373. A bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1374. A bill to assist States in making voluntary high quality full-day prekindergarten programs available and economically affordable for the families of all children for at least 1 year preceding kindergarten; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1375. A bill to ensure that new mothers and their families are educated about postpartum depression, screened for symptoms, and provided with essential services, and to increase research at the National Institutes of Health on postpartum depression; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. Res. 194. A resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the landmark case *In re Gault*, et. al., in which the Supreme Court held that all children accused of delinquent acts and facing a proceeding in which their freedom may be curtailed have a right to counsel in the proceedings against them; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 195. A resolution commending the Oregon State University College of Forestry on the occasion of its centennial; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 329

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from

Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to improve Medicare beneficiary access by extending the 60 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility under the Medicare program.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 579, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 700

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a tax credit to individuals who enter into agreements to protect the habitats of endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 713

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude amounts received as a military basic housing allowance from consideration as income for purposes of the low-income housing credit and qualified residential rental projects.

S. 919

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to reauthorize Department of Agriculture conservation and energy programs and certain other programs of the Department, to modify the operation and administration of these programs, and for other purposes.

S. 921

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 921, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 935

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and for other purposes.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

S. 1019

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1019, a bill to provide comprehensive reform of the health care system of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1047

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1047, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude

from gross income amounts paid on behalf of Federal employees and members of the Armed Forces on active duty under Federal student loan repayment programs.

S. 1173

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to protect, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, a woman's freedom to choose to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1204

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1204, a bill to enhance Federal efforts focused on public awareness and education about the risks and dangers associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome.

S. 1224

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1224, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1237

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1237, a bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists.

S. 1249

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to require the President to close the Department of Defense detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 1257

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1257, a bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

S. 1310

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1310, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of increased payments for

ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1323

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1323, a bill to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 1334

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1334, a bill to amend section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, to make permanent authority to furnish government headstones and markers for graves of veterans at private cemeteries, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to ensure that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs provide to members of the Armed Forces and veterans with traumatic brain injury the services that best meet their individual needs, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 192

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 192, a resolution recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2007.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1368. A bill to amend the Denali Commission Act of 1998 to modify the authority of the Commission; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to introduce S. 1368, a bill to reauthorize a Federal-State partnership known as the Denali Commission. This Commission plays a crucial role in the development of basic infrastructure for communities in rural Alaska.

The Denali Commission was originally established by Congress in 1998. The unique structure of the Commission ensures the most efficient allocation of Federal funds, as it caps administrative expenses at 5 percent and capitalizes on the use of strategic partnerships. Over the course of the past decade, the Commission has partnered with Federal and State agencies, tribal organizations, and local communities to address the unique challenges asso-

ciated with living in Alaska. In just a short period of time, the Commission has improved the living conditions of rural Alaska by providing job training, teacher housing and funds to improve options for handling solid waste. The bulk fuel projects undertaken by the Commission have reduced the costs of rural energy. The health clinics have increased the availability of health services to rural villages that are isolated from metropolitan areas. There are 240 Alaska Native Villages, and over 100 communities have been served by the Denali Commission.

Although the Denali Commission has made tremendous strides to ensure rural Alaska has basic living conditions, there still is work to be done. Many of the rural communities have no roads and their transportation infrastructure is deteriorating. Numerous villages can only be accessed by water, and the docks in the communities are in desperate need of repair. The projects conducted by the Denali Commission not only keep communities connected to mainstream Alaska, projects also foster economic growth. The unemployment rates in many villages remain above 50 percent. The high cost of basic needs, such as milk and oil, coupled with public infrastructure that is comparable to developing nations create difficult circumstance in rural Alaska. The Denali Commission is our best hope for properly addressing these issues and meeting the needs of Alaskans.

The continuation of the Denali Commission's presence in rural Alaska is of critical importance to the future of rural Alaska. The bill I introduce today would reauthorize the Denali Commission for 5 years, through fiscal year 2014.

Other provisions of this bill would also amend the Denali Commission Act of 1998 to make the Commission stronger and more efficient.

Senator MURKOWSKI is an original cosponsor of this legislation, and it is our hope the Senate will act quickly to reauthorize the Denali Commission.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KYL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1369. A bill to grant immunity from civil liability to any person who voluntarily notifies appropriate security personnel of suspicious activity believed to threaten transportation safety or security or takes reasonable action to mitigate such activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation that would provide immunity to individuals who report suspicious activities that may reflect terrorist threats to our transportation system. I am very honored that Senators KYL and LIEBERMAN have joined me in introducing this important bill.

The recent arrest in New Jersey of six men charged with conspiring to murder American soldiers at Fort Dix underscores the need for this bill. Law

enforcement officials have noted that their investigation was triggered by the report of an alert store clerk who said a customer had brought in a video that showed men firing weapons and shouting in Arabic. This reminded the store clerk of the 9/11 terrorists.

But for the report of this store clerk, it is unlikely this potential plot against Fort Dix—a plot that if executed would have caused the loss of lives—would have been uncovered. That store clerk's action may have saved literally hundreds of lives and represents a core truth of the dangerous times in which we live. Our safety depends on more than just police officers, intelligence analysts, and soldiers. It also depends on the alertness and civil responsibility of ordinary American citizens, including the peaceful and tolerant people who form the vast majority of America's Muslim communities.

We must encourage average citizens to be watchful and report behavior that appears to be suspicious or threatening. That imperative is especially strong in the area of mass transportation, where there is the potential for mass casualties, where vehicles and aircraft can be used as weapons, and where there is often only a brief period of time for assessing and reacting to alarming behavior. That is why the slogan "See something, say something," is used in the New York subway.

Unfortunately, we have seen that plaintiffs can misuse our legal system to chill the willingness of average citizens to come forward and report possible dangers. As was widely reported last fall, six Islamic clerics were removed from a USAirways flight after other passengers expressed concerns that some of the clerics had moved out of their assigned seats and had requested, but apparently were not using, seatbelt extenders that could possibly double as weapons.

As a result of that incident, what happened? Well, the USAirways officials decided to remove these individuals from the plane so they could further investigate. What happened to the individuals who courageously came forward and reported this suspicious behavior? Unbelievably, they were sued for voicing their fears that the clerics could be rehearsing or preparing to execute a hijacking. These honestly concerned passengers found themselves as defendants in lawsuits that were filed in March.

The existence of this lawsuit clearly illustrates how unfair it is to allow private citizens to possibly be intimidated into silence by the threat of litigation. Would that alert clerk in the store have come forward if he thought there was a chance he was going to be sued? Would the passengers have spoken up if they had anticipated there would be a lawsuit filed against them? Even if such suits fail, they can expose citizens to heavy costs in time and legal fees.

Our bill would provide civil immunity in American courts for citizens

acting in good faith who report threats to our transportation systems.

The bill would encourage people to pass on information to appropriate transportation system officials and employees, to law enforcement or transportation security officials, or to the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, or Transportation, without fear of being sued just for doing their civic duty.

Only disclosures made to those responsible officials and employees would be protected by the legislation's grant of immunity. Once a report is received, those officials would be responsible for assessing its reasonableness and determining whether further action is required. If these officials take reasonable action to mitigate the reported threat, they, too, would be protected from lawsuits. Just as we should not discourage reporting suspicious incidents, we also should not discourage reasonable responses to them.

Let me make very clear this bill does not offer any protection whatsoever if an individual makes a statement that he or she knows to be false. No one will be able to use this bill, should it become law, as I hope it will, as a cover for mischievous, vengeful, or biased falsehoods.

Our laws and legal system must not be hijacked to intimidate people into silence or to prevent our officials from responding to terrorist threats. Protecting citizens who make good-faith reports—and that is an important qualification in this bill—protecting citizens who make good-faith reports of potentially lethal activities is essential to maintaining our homeland security.

Our bill offers protection in a measured way, that discourages abuses from either side. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Senator LIEBERMAN and I have been holding a series of hearings, starting last year, in the Homeland Security Committee, to look at the threat of home-grown terrorists, domestic radicalization. We have learned a lot in the past 6 months. What we have learned has only strengthened my determination to push ahead with this bill.

The fact is, each of us has an important responsibility. The fight against domestic terrorism—or, indeed, any kind of terrorism—requires the active involvement of the citizenry of this country. It is not a fight that can be left simply to law enforcement. We simply could never have a sufficient number of law enforcement or intelligence officials to take care of every threat. Indeed, the foiled threat at Fort Dix shows us how important citizen involvement is.

I think this is a reasonable bill. It requires this immunity would be granted only for reports made in good faith. This would help encourage passengers on airlines and on trains to report suspicious activities. I think that is a necessary protection in this day and age.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure more investment and innovation in clean energy technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that I believe is an important component of comprehensive energy policy. In order to transition away from an overreliance on fossil fuels, we must promote investments in clean energy generation using renewable resources and reduce the growth in demand for energy by stressing efficiency.

I think every Member of the Senate recognizes that while there is no single technological silver bullet for our energy problems, there are many emerging technologies that if adopted and deployed could go a long way in meeting our vexing energy security and climate challenges.

We also know that Government can play a key role setting technology standards and clean energy goals, but shifting our Nation's and the world's energy system to clean energy alternatives will take substantial private sector investment. Here, too, the Government can play a key role by enabling the market conditions that will take the technology from the laboratory and turn it into fully operational energy producing facilities.

A number of reports have suggested that private investment in energy technologies is on the rise. While estimates vary widely, New Energy Finance has reported that 1,246 private equity funds put more than \$70 billion into clean energy technologies in 2006—a 43-percent increase relative to 2005. Similarly, a survey conducted late last year by the National Venture Capital Association found that more than 90 percent of respondents expect to increase investment in the energy sector in 2007.

This is a unique time. There is growing consensus that our Nation's energy demands need to be better and more smartly managed and, more importantly, consensus that those growing energy demands should be met using clean, renewable energy resources.

The Clean Energy Investment Assurance Act of 2007, which I introduce along with my colleagues, Senators GORDON SMITH and JOHN KERRY, responds to the clear message that was delivered to both the Senate Energy and Senate Finance Committees by businesses that are on the cutting edge in this area. What we heard from the renewable energy community and the investment community is that what they need most is some certainty in the Tax Code.

This type of Federal assistance will support the needed long-term investments that ultimately will drive down the costs of electricity from renewable sources. Once the market for these new technologies is up and running, such facilities will be economically self-sustaining and profitable.

Our legislation adheres to the following principles:

Certainty. We put the existing tax incentives in place long enough to drive investment dollars so these new technologies can be commercialized. The core of this bill is a 5-year extension and modification of the production tax credit. This tax credit is designed to help businesses and utilities diversify their sources of energy and promote energy production using biomass, wind power, hydropower, geothermal power, and other clean, renewable resources. In addition, we extend for 8 years the investment tax credit that is so important in encouraging the large upfront outlay of capital that is required for solar and fuel cell power plants.

Technological neutrality. This bill levels the playing field by providing an incentive to both thermal energy production and electricity production that use renewable resources. It also modifies the tax credits to increase the incentive effect for all renewable technologies that can produce energy with zero carbon emissions.

Parity between investor-owned utilities and consumer-owned public power utilities. The bill provides a powerful, complementary incentive through the Clean Renewable Energy Bond Program so that public power and consumer-owned utilities that cannot benefit from tax credits are not financially disadvantaged when they invest in renewable facilities. Public power utilities are required to meet State renewable portfolio standards in the same way as investor-owned utilities, and Government should provide comparable financial incentives so that ultimately the cost of electricity can be reduced for all customers.

Importance of efficiency. This bill includes provisions that better utilize the incentives in the Tax Code to promote energy efficiency in manufacturing, construction of "green buildings," and more efficient homes. These tax incentives help defray the additional costs associated with using new energy-efficient technologies, systems, and materials to construct and retrofit factories, commercial buildings, and houses in order to reduce energy demand. I know Senator SNOWE has done a great deal of work in this area, and I look forward to working with her on these important provisions.

Another key component in this regard is an inducement for customers and utilities to upgrade to "smart meters." A "smart meter" is a device with an electronic circuit board containing computer chips and a digital communications device. It allows a customer to interact with a utility in real time. This interaction allows the utility to better forecast and manage energy load and the customer can manage his energy use to lower the cost.

The electromechanical meter, the device that measures energy use with the little wheels turning inside it that is hooked up to almost every home and business in America, is almost the

same as when it was invented in the 1930s, when FDR was President.

Inefficient use of energy forces utilities to invest millions in building plants that operate only when energy demand peaks. As a result, the power these plants generate costs far more than power from other sources. This means more expensive power when demand is high.

Our bill would allow a faster recovery period for the costs of installing these new “smart meters,” which will make it easier for consumers to reduce energy use during these peak periods and shift their energy use to low-demand, low-cost times of the day.

We know that we don’t have an unlimited pool of Federal resources, and I believe strongly that the Finance Committee should redirect subsidies that historically have propped up the oil and gas industry to now support this new direction in energy policy.

Our tax policy here should be driven by our energy policy goals. We cannot make a long-term difference with start-and-stop tax policy. But we must be mindful that after a reasonable period all tax incentives should be reexamined to see whether we have gotten the results we anticipated and whether the marketplace is ready to function on its own.

We should focus tax incentives where they will have the greatest impact in helping meet those goals. While this bill seeks to address renewable power and efficiency, I plan to continue working on legislation to effectively align the other incentives in the Tax Code that are designed to promote alternative fuels and vehicles.

We all witnessed how innovation in information technologies served as a forceful driver of productivity and economic growth in the recent past.

Energy technology innovations now have similar potential to fuel a new wave of economic growth and job creation.

I would like to note that this bill has already received the support of the following organizations: American Forest Resource Council; American Public Power Association; Biomass Investment Group; Energy Northwest; Large Public Power Council; Northwest Public Power Association; Southern California Public Power Authority; Solar Energy Industries Association; USA Biomass Power Producers Alliance; Chelan County PUD, Snohomish County PUD, Tacoma Power, and Seattle City Light; Washington Public Utility Districts Association; Simpson Investment Company, Tacoma; National Hydropower Association; Seattle Steam; and TechNet.

We have a tremendous opportunity in this Congress to set a new course in energy, environmental, and economic policy for the 21st century, and I hope we aggressively move forward and meet this challenge.

I ask unanimous consent that a section-by-section summary of the Clean Energy Investment Assurance Act of 2007 be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

THE CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT ASSURANCE ACT OF 2007

A bill to provide reliable Federal tax incentives to help ensure more private sector led investment an innovation in clean energy technologies.

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Sec. 1 Short Title.

Sec. 2. Expansion and modification of renewable electricity production credit (IRC Section 45).

Under current law, a qualified facility must be placed in service by December 31, 2008, in order to claim a tax credit for electricity that is produced. The bill extends the placed in service date until December 31, 2013, in order to provide an adequate incentive to have more facilities placed in service. Investors willing to bear the risks of new energy technologies should not be subject to the economic risks of start-and-stop tax policy.

The tax credit would be expanded to allow a credit for either the production of thermal energy—heat, in the form hot water or steam, or cooling in the form of chilled water, ice or other media—or the production of electricity. This would provide an incentive to invest in facilities that use renewable energy sources to create useful and valuable thermal energy, without generating electricity. Such district energy facilities can provide significant efficiency gains for heating and cooling buildings, displacing peak electricity demands on the local grid and enhancing fuel flexibility.

All qualifying facilities would be eligible to receive the full rate of credit, as adjusted for inflation. Current law reduces the credit by half for open-loop biomass, small irrigation power, landfill gas, trash combustion, and hydropower facilities.

New and existing facilities would be able to claim the credit for a period of 10 years, beginning on the date the facility is placed in service.

The goal of the credit is to encourage deployment of facilities that can produce energy from renewable sources. In order to enable new and emerging technologies to benefit from the credit, the bill grants authority to the Treasury Department to allow a facility placed in service before January 1, 2014, to qualify for the Section 45 credit even though it produces thermal energy or electricity using a renewable resource that is not enumerated in Section 45 provided that the facility produces energy with zero carbon emissions. The determination of whether a facility meets the zero carbon emissions requirement would be made in consultation with the Energy Department. New and emerging technologies that achieve the underlying goal of the incentive will not be disadvantaged by having to come through the lengthy legislative process in order to qualify.

The bill attempts to clarify existing Treasury guidance in order to facilitate electricity purchased by a co-located host facility (e.g. lumber mill) even in the case that both facilities are owned by the same taxpayer. Treasury/IRS Notice 2006-88 includes the concept of “simultaneous sale and purchase” that is being viewed as an impediment for some open-loop biomass facilities to claim the section 45 credit. This broad concept appears to require netting of electricity sold to, and purchased from, unrelated parties in order for a facility to qualify. Our proposal seeks to reverse the effect of this netting rule to allow qualified bio-

mass facilities to obtain the PTC for gross electricity sold to the grid without any requirement to “net” electricity sold to and purchased from an unrelated party.

The bill modifies the definition of closed-loop biomass in Section 45(c)(2) to indicate that power producers that use part or the dedicated crop to produce some other type of renewable energy, for example: ethanol, etc., in addition to making electricity, are not disqualified from obtaining the closed-loop tax biomass tax credit for the electricity. Under current law, if any part of the dedicated energy material is used for any purpose other than producing electricity, the electricity produced is not eligible for the closed loop credit. Advances in energy science have led scientists and investors toward the creation of “energy plantations” that grow a dedicated crop for electricity production that also can provide a source of cellulosic ethanol. The bill would remove a disincentive to bringing such multiuse green facilities online.

Under current law, for only closed-loop biomass facilities modified to co-fire with coal, to co-fire with other biomass, or to co-fire with coal and other biomass, there is no reduction in credit by reason of grants, tax-exempt bonds, subsidized energy financing, and other credits while there is a reduction in the credit of up to 50 percent for other qualified facilities in cases where a facility benefited from grants, used proceeds from tax-exempt bonds, or was subsidized under a Federal, State or local program. Our proposal would equalize the treatment of all types of facilities by repealing this limitation in current law Section 45B(3). This will encourage States and localities to partner with private industry as part of a multi-faceted energy and environmental strategy.

Clarifies the statute to reflect additional work that may be needed to retrofit potential non-hydropower dams and make a technical correction related to incremental hydropower.

Sec. 3. Extension and expansion of credit to holders of clean renewable energy bonds (IRC Sec. 54).

Under current law, the full financial incentives provided under the tax credits are not available to certain entities such as consumer-owned utilities, yet these utilities also need to increase their investments in renewable energy sources to meet their growing demands. The Clean Renewable Energy Bond, CREB, program, enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, was crafted to provide a comparable financial incentive for consumer-owned utilities to invest in new renewable electricity generation facilities. CREBs provide public power systems with interest free borrowing for qualified projects. State and local governments, U.S. territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, Indian tribal governments, CoBank, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, mutual or cooperative electric companies described in Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c)(12) or 1381 (a)(2)(c), and a not-for-profit electric utility that has received a loan or loan guarantee under the Rural Electrification Act are all eligible to issue CREBs. Unfortunately, the 2-year authorization, the cumulative volume limit, and the smallest-to-largest project allocation of this limited authority have made it difficult for these bonds to be an effective large-scale investment incentive. Our proposal would extend the program to December 31, 2013 and convert the cumulative volume cap into an annual cap. Thus, the limitation in bonds issued would be \$5 billion in each calendar year. It is intended that the higher volume cap will encourage broader allocation of the bonds to large-scale projects.

Sec. 4. Extension and modification of residential energy efficient property credit (Section 25D)

The bill extends until 2017 a 30 percent investment tax credit for the purchase of residential solar water heating and fuel cell property. In addition, the solar credit would be based on system power rather than cost and would provide \$1,500 for each half-kilowatt of capacity for solar PV equipment and \$1,000 for each kilowatt of capacity for fuel cells. Credits would be permitted against the alternative minimum tax to expand the incentive effect of the tax credit.

The bill allows the same credit for purchases of "qualified energy storage air conditioner property," which increases the value of intermittent energy sources, such as wind and solar, by creating, storing, and supplying cooling energy.

Sec. 5. Extension and modification of energy credit (Section 48)

The bill extends until 2017 a 30 percent business credit, for the purchase of fuel cell power plants, solar energy property, and fiber optic property used to illuminate the inside of a structure. The bill changes the maximum credit to \$1,500 for each half-kilowatt of capacity for solar PV equipment and eliminates the cap on fuel cell power plant property. The bill allows credits to be taken against the alternative minimum tax.

The bill also allows the credit for purchases of "qualified energy storage air conditioner property," which increases the value of intermittent energy sources, such as wind and solar, by creating, storing, and supplying cooling energy.

Sec. 6. Extension and modification of nonbusiness energy property credit (Section 25C)

The bill extends would extend through 2012 the 10 percent investment tax credit for expenditures with respect to building envelopes using qualified energy efficient property, including qualified advanced main air circulating fans, natural gas, propane, oil furnaces or hot water boilers. The bill also would expand the deduction by removing the lifetime limit and modifies the law so that the incentives are based on performance rather than cost.

Sec. 7. Extension of new energy efficient home credit (Section 45L)

Our proposal would extend through the end of 2012 the tax credit to eligible contractors for the construction of qualified new energy-efficient homes.

Sec. 8. Extension and modification of energy efficient commercial buildings deduction (Section 179D)

Our proposal would extend through 2013 the deduction for investments in commercial buildings that reduce annual energy and power consumption. The bill also increases the amount of the deduction to \$2.25 per square foot, and modifies the measurement of energy savings under the law.

Sec. 9. Five-year applicable recovery period for depreciation of qualified energy management devices (Section 168(e))

The bill would treat qualified "smart meters" as qualified technological property eligible for 5 year cost recovery; This will ease the financial burdens that are hampering the deployment of this energy efficient technology and reflect the more appropriate tax treatment of this next generation meter technology. Under current law, smart meters are treated the same ways as electromagnetic meters with a 20 year cost recovery period. This has been a serious disincentive for taxpayers to upgrade their meters and realize the energy savings that will result.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1374. A bill to assist States in making voluntary high quality full-day prekindergarten programs available and economically affordable for the families of all children for at least 1 year preceding kindergarten; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my Prepare All Kids Act of 2007, a bill that represents one of my highest priorities, high quality prekindergarten education for all children, and particularly those from low income families for whom the cost of prekindergarten may be prohibitive. Investing in high quality early childhood development programs should be a national priority for our country. I look forward to speaking at length on the floor early next week about what my bill will accomplish for children and working families. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1374

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Prepare All Kids Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. HIGH QUALITY FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

Chapter 8 of subtitle A of title VI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-35; 95 Stat. 357) is amended by inserting after subchapter C the following:

"Subchapter D—High Quality Full-Day Prekindergarten Programs

"SEC. 661. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

"(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

"(1) Investments in children and early education should be a national priority.

"(2) The cost of high quality preschool is prohibitive for poor families and is a significant financial strain for many working- and middle-class families.

"(3) State-funded preschool is the most rapidly expanding segment of the United States educational system, but in many States a lack of stable funding poses an enormous threat to the provision or continuation of high quality preschool.

"(4) The provision of high quality prekindergarten is a cost-effective investment for children and for the Nation. Research shows that for every \$1 invested in high quality early childhood programs, taxpayers save more than \$17 in crime, welfare, education, and other costs.

"(5) Fewer than half the Nation's poor preschool-age children attend preschool. The result is a significant preparation gap between poor and middle-class children and between minority and white children.

"(6) High quality early education increases academic success for schoolchildren who received that education by—

"(A) increasing high school graduation rates;

"(B) improving children's performance on standardized tests;

"(C) reducing grade repetition; and

"(D) reducing the number of children placed in special education.

"(7) High quality early education promotes responsible behavior by teens and adults who received that education by—

"(A) reducing crime, delinquency, and unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and drug use;

"(B) lowering rates of teen pregnancy;

"(C) leading to greater employment and higher wages for adults; and

"(D) contributing to more stable families.

"(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to assist States in—

"(1) making voluntary high quality full-day prekindergarten programs available and economically affordable for the families of all children for at least 1 year preceding kindergarten; and

"(2) making the prekindergarten programs available to a target population of children from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line, for whom the prekindergarten programs will be free of charge.

"SEC. 662. DEFINITIONS.

"(a) In this Act:

"(1) FULL-DAY.—The term 'full-day', used with respect to a program, means a program with a minimum of a 6-hour schedule per day.

"(2) POVERTY LINE.—The term 'poverty line' has the meaning given the term in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) and includes any revision required by that section.

"(3) PREKINDERGARTEN.—The term 'prekindergarten' means a program that—

"(A) serves children who are ages 3 through 5;

"(B) supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and approaches to learning; and

"(C) helps prepare children for a successful transition to kindergarten.

"(4) PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER.—The term 'prekindergarten teacher' means an individual who

"(A) has a bachelor of arts degree with a specialization in early childhood education or early childhood development; or

"(B) during the 6-year period following the first date on which the individual is employed as such a teacher under this Act, is working toward that degree.

"(5) QUALIFIED PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER.—The term 'qualified prekindergarten provider' includes a provider of a prekindergarten program, a Head Start agency, a provider of a child care program, a school, and a for-profit or nonprofit organization that—

"(A) is in existence on the date of the qualification determination; and

"(B) has met applicable requirements under State or local law that are designed to protect the health and safety of children and that are applicable to child care providers.

"(6) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"SEC. 663. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

"(a) PREKINDERGARTEN INCENTIVE FUND.—The Secretary, in collaboration and consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall create a Prekindergarten Incentive Fund, to be administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"(b) GRANTS.—In administering the Fund, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible States, to pay for the Federal share of the cost of awarding subgrants to qualified prekindergarten providers to establish, expand, or enhance voluntary high quality full-day prekindergarten programs.

"SEC. 664. STATE APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

"(a) DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this Act, a State shall designate a State agency to administer the State program of assistance for prekindergarten programs funded through the grant, including receiving and administering funds and monitoring the programs.

“(b) STATE APPLICATION.—In order for a State to be eligible to receive a grant under this Act, the designated State agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including—

“(1) an assurance that, for prekindergarten programs funded through the grant, the State will ensure that the qualified prekindergarten providers target children from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line, and provide prekindergarten programs to children from those families free of charge;

“(2) an assurance that the State will award subgrants for prekindergarten programs that are sufficient to provide a high quality prekindergarten experience;

“(3) an assurance that not less than 25 percent of the qualified prekindergarten providers receiving such subgrants will be providers of community-based programs;

“(4) a description of the number of children in the State who are eligible for the prekindergarten programs and the needs that will be served through the prekindergarten programs;

“(5) a description of how the State will ensure that the subgrants are awarded to a wide range of types of qualified prekindergarten providers;

“(6) a description of how the designated State agency will collaborate and coordinate activities with State-funded providers of prekindergarten programs, providers of federally funded programs such as Head Start agencies, local educational agencies, and child care providers;

“(7) a description of how the State will ensure, through a monitoring process, that qualified prekindergarten providers receiving the subgrants continue to place priority on the target population of children described in paragraph (1), provide programs that meet the standards of high quality early education, and use funds appropriately;

“(8) a description of how the State will meet the needs of working parents; and

“(9) a description of how the State will assist in providing professional development assistance to prekindergarten teachers and teacher aides.

“(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost described in section 663(b) shall be 50 percent. The State shall provide the non-Federal share of the cost in cash.

“(d) SUPPLEMENTARY FEDERAL FUNDING.—Funds made available under this Act may be used only to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, local, or private funds that would, in the absence of the funds made available under this Act, be made available for early childhood programs.

“(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A State that receives a grant under this Act for a fiscal year shall maintain the expenditures of the State for early childhood programs at a level not less than the level of such expenditures of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

“SEC. 665. STATE SET ASIDES AND EXPENDITURES.

“(a) INFANT AND TODDLER SET ASIDE.—Notwithstanding sections 662 and 663, a State shall set aside not less than 10 percent of the funds made available through a grant awarded under this Act for the purpose of funding high quality early childhood development programs for children who are ages 0 through 3. Funds made available under this subsection may also be used for professional development for teachers and teacher aides in classrooms for children who are ages 0 through 3.

“(b) EXTENDED DAY AND EXTENDED YEAR SET ASIDE.—Notwithstanding section 663, a State shall set aside not less than 10 percent

of the funds made available through a grant awarded under this Act for the purpose of extending the hours of early childhood programs to create extended day and extended year programs.

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds made available through such a grant may be used for administrative expenses, including monitoring.

“SEC. 666. LOCAL APPLICATIONS.

“To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this Act, a qualified prekindergarten provider shall submit an application to the designated State agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the agency may reasonably require, including—

“(1) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider will meet the diverse needs of children in the community to be served, including children with disabilities, whose native language is not English, or with other special needs, children in the State foster care system, and homeless children;

“(2) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider will serve eligible children who are not served through similar services or programs;

“(3) a description of a plan for involving families in the prekindergarten program;

“(4) a description of how children in the prekindergarten program, and their parents and families, will receive assistance through supportive services provided within the community;

“(5) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider collaborates with providers of other programs serving children and families, including Head Start agencies, providers of child care programs, and local educational agencies, to meet the needs of children, families, and working families, as appropriate; and

“(6) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider will collaborate with local educational agencies to ensure a smooth transition for participating students from the prekindergarten program to kindergarten and early elementary education.

“SEC. 667. LOCAL PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) MANDATORY USES OF FUNDS.—A qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant under this Act shall use funds received through the grant to establish, expand, or enhance prekindergarten programs for children who are ages 3 through 5, including—

“(1) providing a prekindergarten program that supports children’s cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and approaches to learning, and helps prepare children for a successful transition to kindergarten;

“(2) purchasing educational equipment, including educational materials, necessary to provide a high quality prekindergarten program; and

“(3) extending part-day prekindergarten programs to full-day prekindergarten programs.

“(b) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—A qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant under this Act may use funds received through the grant to—

“(1) pay for transporting students to and from a prekindergarten program; and

“(2) provide professional development assistance to prekindergarten teachers and teacher aides.

“(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant under this Act shall carry out a high quality prekindergarten program by—

“(1) maintaining a maximum class size of 20 children, with at least 1 prekindergarten teacher per classroom;

“(2) ensuring that the ratio of children to prekindergarten teachers and teacher aides shall not exceed 10 to 1;

“(3) utilizing a prekindergarten curriculum that is research- and evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and designed to support children’s cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development, and approaches to learning;

“(4) providing a program with a minimum of a 6-hour schedule per day; and

“(5) ensuring that prekindergarten teachers meet the requirements of this Act.

“SEC. 668. REPORTING.

“(a) QUALIFIED PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER REPORTS.—Each qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant from a State under this Act shall submit an annual report, to the designated State agency, that reviews the effectiveness of the prekindergarten program provided. Such annual report shall include—

“(1) data specifying the number and ages of enrolled children, and the family income, race, gender, disability, and native language of such children;

“(2) a description of—

“(A) the curriculum used by the program;

“(B) how the curriculum supports children’s cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and approaches to learning; and

“(C) how the curriculum is appropriate for children of the culture, language, and ages of the children served; and

“(3) a statement of all sources of funding received by the program, including Federal, State, local, and private funds.

“(b) STATE REPORTS.—Each State that receives a grant under this Act shall submit an annual report to the Secretary detailing the effectiveness of all prekindergarten programs funded under this Act in the State.

“(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress that describes the State programs of assistance for prekindergarten programs funded under this Act.

“SEC. 669. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

“(1) \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

“(2) \$6,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(3) \$7,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(4) \$8,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

“(5) \$9,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.”

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. LAUTENBERG);

S. 1375. A bill to ensure that new mothers and their families are educated about postpartum depression, screened for symptoms, and provided with essential services, and to increase research at the National Institutes of Health on postpartum depression; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today with my friends Senators DURBIN and SNOWE to reintroduce the Mom’s Opportunity to Access Help, Education, Research, and Support for Postpartum Depression, MOTHERS, Act.

Senator DURBIN has been and continues to be a leader on this issue and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with him on this important legislation. I would also like to recognize Representative RUSH, who has been a champion for women battling

postpartum depression, PPD, in the House for many years. I am proud to say that his bill, The Melanie Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act, shares the same goals as the MOTHERS Act.

Mr. President, in the United States, 10 to 20 percent of women suffer from a disabling and often undiagnosed condition known as postpartum depression. Unfortunately, many women are unaware of this condition and often do not receive the treatment they need. That is why I am introducing the MOTHERS Act, so that women no longer have to suffer in silence and feel alone when faced with this difficult condition.

Last year, the great State of New Jersey passed a first of its kind law requiring doctors and nurses to educate expectant mothers and their families about postpartum depression. This bill was introduced in the State legislature by State Senate President Richard Codey. The attention of Senator Codey and his wife, Mary Jo Codey, who personally battled postpartum depression, have brought to the issue is remarkable. Brooke Shields, a graduate of Princeton University, has also shared her struggle with postpartum depression publicly and should be commended for her efforts to bring awareness to this condition. Postpartum depression affects women all across the country, not just in New Jersey, and that is why I believe the MOTHERS Act is so important.

In America, 80 percent of women experience some level of depression after childbirth. This is what people often refer to as the "baby blues." However, each year, there are between 400,000 and 800,000 women across America who suffer from postpartum depression, a much more serious condition. These mothers often experience signs of depression and may lose interest in friends and family, feel overwhelming sadness or even have thoughts of harming their baby or harming themselves. People often assume that these feelings are simply the "baby blues", but the reality is much worse. Postpartum depression is a serious and disabling condition and new mothers deserve to be given information and resources on this condition so, if needed, they can get the appropriate help.

The good news is that treatment is available. Many women have successfully recovered from postpartum depression with the help of therapy, medication, and support groups. However, mothers and their families must be educated so that they understand what might occur after the birth of their child and when to get help. This legislation will require doctors and nurses to educate every new mother and their families about postpartum depression before they leave the hospital and offer the opportunity for new mothers to be screened for postpartum depression symptoms during the first year of postnatal check up visits. It also provides social services to new

mothers and their families who are suffering and struggling with postpartum depression. By increasing education and early treatment of postpartum depression, mothers, husbands, and families, will be able to recognize the symptoms of this condition and help new mothers get the treatment they need and deserve.

The MOTHERS Act has another important component. While we continue to educate and help the mothers of today, we must also be prepared to help future moms. By increasing funding for research on postpartum conditions at the National Institutes of Health, we can begin to unravel the mystery behind this difficult to understand illness. The more we know about the causes and etiology of postpartum depression, the more tools we have to treat and prevent this heartbreaking condition.

We must attack postpartum depression on all fronts with education, screening, support, and research so that new moms can feel supported and safe rather than scared and alone. Many new mothers sacrifice anything and everything to provide feelings of security and safety to their innocent, newborn child. It is our duty to provide the same level of security, safety and support to new mothers in need.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 194—COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK CASE IN RE GAULT, ET. AL., IN WHICH THE SUPREME COURT HELD THAT ALL CHILDREN ACCUSED OF DELINQUENT ACTS AND FACING A PROCEEDING IN WHICH THEIR FREEDOM MAY BE CURTAILED HAVE A RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THEM

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 194

Whereas, on May 15, 1967, the Supreme Court recognized in *In re Gault, et al.*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967) that all children accused of delinquent acts and facing a proceeding in which their freedom may be curtailed have a right to counsel in the proceedings against them;

Whereas the Supreme Court held that proceedings against juveniles must meet the essential requirements of the due process clause of the 14th amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas the Gault decision recognized that the constitutional protections of due process extend to juveniles the right to fundamental procedural safeguards in juvenile courts, including the right to advance notice of the charges against them, the right to counsel, the privilege against self-incrimination, and the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses; and

Whereas, 40 years after the Gault decision, some children appear in court with no legal counsel at all: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors the 40th anniversary of the decision in *In re Gault, et al.*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967);

(2) encourages all people of the United States to recognize and honor the 40th anniversary of the Gault decision;

(3) supports strategies to improve the juvenile justice system that appreciate the unique nature of childhood and adolescence; and

(4) pledges to acknowledge and address the modern day disparities that remain for children after the Gault decision.

SENATE RESOLUTION 195—COMMENDING THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORESTRY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 195

Whereas educational programs in forestry were established at the Oregon Agricultural College in 1906 and have evolved for 100 years, forming the foundation for today's Oregon State University College of Forestry;

Whereas the centennial year of the College of Forestry began in May 2006 and culminates with a celebration in May 2007, providing for year-long recognition of exceptional education, research, outreach, and service programs, and outstanding faculty, staff, and students;

Whereas the College of Forestry aspires to be the world's premier academic institution in forestry and to serve the people of Oregon, the Nation, and the world;

Whereas the College of Forestry is committed to providing the knowledge and graduates needed to sustain forests and the functions, products, and values forests provide for current and future generations;

Whereas the College of Forestry addresses complex forest resource challenges through collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and perspectives;

Whereas the College of Forestry has fostered teaching and learning about forests through its forest engineering, forest resources, forest science, and wood science and engineering educational programs;

Whereas the College of Forestry actively encourages students to engage in distinctive problem solving and to conduct fundamental research on the nature and use of forests, and to share discoveries with others;

Whereas the College of Forestry conducts research on a wide range of topics, in the disciplines of biology, botany, ecology, engineering, forest management, manufacturing and marketing of wood products, the social sciences, wood chemistry, and physiology, that affect virtually all Oregonians because of the importance of forests to the people of Oregon and the State's economic health;

Whereas the College of Forestry recognizes strength in diversity of faculty, staff, students, and ideas, and nurtures the community through communication and respect;

Whereas the College of Forestry operates 14,000 acres of forests, which serve as a living laboratory where active forest management provides teaching, research, and demonstration opportunities for all Oregonians; and

Whereas the College of Forestry has been recognized by peers as the premier forestry research college in North America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends the Oregon State University College of Forestry on the occasion of its centennial.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1083. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1084. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1085. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1086. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1087. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1088. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1089. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1090. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1091. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1083. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4. WALLA WALLA RIVER BASIN, OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

In conducting the study to determine the feasibility of carrying out a project for ecosystem restoration, Walla Walla River Basin, Oregon and Washington, the Secretary shall—

(1) provide a credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the project for the cost of any activity carried out by the non-Federal interest before the date of the partnership agreement for the project, if the Secretary determines that the activity is integral to the project; and

(2) allow the non-Federal interest to provide the non-Federal share of the cost of the study in the form of in-kind services and materials.

SA 1084. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS SALMON SURVIVAL.

Section 511 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 3301 note; 110 Stat. 3761; 113 Stat. 375) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$30,000,000”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) MANAGEMENT OF PREDATION ON COLUMBIA/SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM NATIVE FISHES.—

“(1) AVIAN PREDATORS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, shall conduct research on, and plan, design, and implement, activities to reduce predation by caspian terns and doublecrested cormorants, as the Secretary determines to be biologically sound and cost-effective to improve survival of Columbia River juvenile salmonids.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—Activities under subparagraph (A) include—

“(i) research;

“(ii) the acquisition of real estate interests from willing sellers;

“(iii) planning, design, construction activities; and

“(iv) maintenance of sites for the relocation of the avian predators within and outside of the Columbia River watershed.

“(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the activities under paragraph (1) in coordination with—

“(A) appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies;

“(B) affected Indian tribes; and

“(C) the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The research and activities under this subsection shall be carried out—

“(i) under the Columbia River fish mitigation project of the Corps of Engineers; and

“(ii) using \$30,000,000 of amounts made available to carry out that project.

“(B) APPORTIONMENT.—The cost of any avian predation management activity under this subsection shall be apportioned among the 8 Lower Columbia River and Snake River projects of the Federal Columbia River power system of the Corps of Engineers for off-site mitigation to address additional salmonid survival improvements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.).”.

SA 1085. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 60, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(u) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the President determines that a feature recommended in the analysis and design of comprehensive hurricane protection under title I of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-103; 119 Stat. 2447), could address a substantial threat to life and property, the President may submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate for authorization a legislative proposal relating to the feature, as the President determines to be appropriate.

(2) PRIORITIZATION.—In submitting legislative proposals under paragraph (1), the President shall give highest priority to any project that, as determined by the President, would—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, reduce the risk—

(i) of loss of human life;

(ii) to public safety; and

(iii) of damage to property; and

(B) minimize costs and environmental impacts.

(3) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on December 31, 2008, any legislative proposal submitted by the President under paragraph (1) shall be eligible for expedited consideration in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) INTRODUCTION.—As soon as practicable after the date of receipt of a legislative proposal under paragraph (1), the Chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives shall introduce as a bill the proposal, by request, in the Senate or the House of Representatives, as applicable.

(C) REFERRAL.—A bill introduced under subparagraph (B) shall be referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate or the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as applicable.

(D) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 legislative days after a bill under subparagraph (B) is referred to a Committee in accordance with subparagraph (C), the Committee shall act on the bill.

(ii) FAILURE TO ACT.—On a failure by a Committee to act on a bill by the date specified in clause (i), the bill shall be discharged from the Committee and placed on the calendar of the Senate or the House of Representatives, as applicable.

(E) SENATE FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Floor consideration in the Senate regarding a bill under subparagraph (B) shall be limited to 20 hours, to be equally divided between the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate (or a designee).

(ii) NONGERMANE AMENDMENTS.—An amendment that is nongermane to a bill under subparagraph (B) shall not be in order.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This requirements of, and authorities under, this subsection shall expire on December 31, 2010.

SA 1086. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the

Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle A of title II, insert the following:

SEC. 2 . . . WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—
 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission, to be known as the “Water Resources Commission” (referred to in this section as the “Commission”), to prioritize water resources projects in the United States.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—
 (A) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, of whom—

(i) 2 members shall be appointed by the President;

(ii) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(iii) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(iv) 2 members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(v) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members shall be appointed to the Commission from among individuals who—

(i) are of recognized standing and distinction with respect to water policy issues; and

(ii) while serving on the Commission, do not hold any other position as an officer or employee of the United States, except as a retired officer or retired civilian employee of the United States.

(C) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The members of the Commission shall be appointed under subparagraph (A) by not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs, in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of—

(A) the Chairperson; or

(B) the majority of the members of the Commission.

(6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(7) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

(b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

(1) PRIORITIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this section, the Commission shall make recommendations for the means by which to prioritize water resources projects of the Corps of Engineers and prioritize water resources projects of the Corps of Engineers that are not being carried out under a continuing authorities program.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-

mission shall submit to Congress a report containing the recommendations and prioritization method required under this paragraph.

(C) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report shall include recommendations for—

(i) a process of regularized prioritization assessments that ensures continuity in project prioritization rankings and the inclusion of newly-authorized projects;

(ii) a process to prioritize water resources projects across project type; and

(iii) a method of analysis, with respect to the prioritization process, of recreation and other ancillary benefits resulting from the construction of Corps of Engineers projects.

(D) PROJECT INCLUSIONS.—The report shall include, at a minimum, each water resources project—

(i) included in the fiscal transparency report under section 2004(b)(1); and

(ii) authorized for construction on the date of enactment of this Act and during the 10-year period prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(E) PRIORITIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each project described in the report shall be categorized by project type and be classified into a tier system of descending priority, to be established by the Commission, in a manner that reflects the extent to which the project achieves project prioritization criteria established under subparagraph (F).

(ii) MULTIPURPOSE PROJECTS.—Each multipurpose project described in the report shall be classified by the project type that best represents the primary project purpose, as determined by the Commission and be classified into the tier system described in clause (i) within that project type.

(iii) TIER SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing a tier system under clause (i), the Commission shall ensure that each tier is limited to total authorized project costs of \$5,000,000,000 and includes not more than 100 projects.

(iv) BALANCE.—The Commission shall seek, to the maximum extent practicable, a balance between the water resource needs of all States, regardless of the size or population of a State.

(F) PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA.—In preparing the report, the Commission shall prioritize each water resource project of the Corps of Engineers based on the extent to which the project meets at least the following criteria and such additional criteria as the Commission may fully explain in the report:

(i) For flood damage reduction projects, the extent to which such a project addresses critical flood damage reduction needs of the United States, including by reducing the risk of loss of life; avoids increasing risks to human life or damages to property in the case of large flood events; and avoids adverse environmental impacts or produces environmental benefits.

(ii) For navigation projects, the extent to which such a project addresses priority navigation needs of the United States, including by having a high probability of producing the economic benefits projected with respect to the project and reflecting regional planning needs, as applicable, and avoids adverse environmental impacts.

(iii) For environmental restoration projects, the extent to which such a project addresses priority environmental restoration needs of the United States, including by restoring the natural hydrologic processes and spatial extent of an aquatic habitat while being, to the maximum extent practicable, self-sustaining; and is cost-effective or produces economic benefits.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The report prepared under this subsection shall be published in

the Federal Register and submitted to the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(C) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, administer such oaths, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section.

(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of the Federal agency shall provide the information to the Commission.

(3) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(4) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A member of the Commission shall serve without pay, but shall be allowed a per diem allowance for travel expenses, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws, including regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(C) COMPENSATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(ii) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—In no event shall any employee of the Commission (other than the executive director) receive as compensation an amount in excess of the maximum rate of pay for Executive Level IV under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement.

(B) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of a Federal employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(4) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—On request of the Commission, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall provide, on a reimbursable basis, such office space, supplies, equipment, and other support services to the Commission and staff of the Commission as are necessary for the Commission to carry out the duties of the Commission under this section.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after

the date on which the final report of the Commission is submitted under subsection (b).

(f) FUNDING.—In carrying out this section, the Commission shall use funds made available for the general operating expenses of the Corps of Engineers.

SA 1087. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. CREDIT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN HURRICANE OR FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 30D. CREDIT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN HURRICANE OR FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to 30 percent of the qualified expenditures of the taxpayer for the taxable year.

“(b) LIMITATION BASED ON AMOUNT OF TAX.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) for the taxable year shall not exceed the excess of—

“(1) the sum of the regular tax liability (as defined in section 26(b)) plus the tax imposed by section 55, over

“(2) the sum of the credits allowable under subpart A and sections 27 and 30A for the taxable year.

“(c) QUALIFIED EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified expenditures’ means amounts paid or incurred by the taxpayer for an unfunded authorized project, but only to the extent—

“(A) such amounts are paid or incurred after a request by the taxpayer to expend such amounts has been approved by the Federal agency administering the unfunded authorized project or after a 90-day period following such request (plus an additional 30-day period if requested by such agency within the 90-day period) during which no decision regarding such request is made by such agency, and

“(B) such amounts are applied proportionally to the Federal and non-Federal share of the total amount authorized to be appropriated for such project.

“(2) UNFUNDED AUTHORIZED PROJECT.—The term ‘unfunded authorized project’ means any project—

“(A) authorized by Federal law to provide hurricane or flood protection in the United States, and

“(B) with respect to which no or only partial Federal funding has been appropriated prior to the request described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(d) CARRYOVERS ALLOWED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the credit amount allowable under subsection (a) for a taxable year exceeds the amount of the limitation under subsection (b) for such taxable year (referred to as the ‘unused credit year’ in this paragraph), such excess shall be allowed as a credit carryforward for each of the taxable years following the unused credit year

or as a credit carryback for each of the taxable years preceding the unused credit year.

“(2) RULES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), rules similar to the rules of section 39 shall apply, except that—

“(A) subsection (a)(1) shall be applied—

“(i) by substituting ‘3 taxable years’ for ‘1 taxable years’ in subparagraph (A) thereof, and

“(ii) by substituting ‘5 taxable years’ for ‘20 taxable years’ in subparagraph (B) thereof, and

“(B) subsection (a)(2) shall be applied—

“(i) by substituting ‘8 taxable years’ for ‘21 taxable years’ in subparagraph (A) thereof, and

“(ii) by substituting ‘7 taxable years’ for ‘20 taxable years’ in subparagraph (B).

“(e) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) BASIS REDUCTION.—The basis of any property for which a credit is allowable under subsection (a) shall be reduced by the amount of such credit (determined without regard to subsection (b)).

“(2) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—The amount of any deduction or credit allowable under this chapter (other than the credit allowable under subsection (a)), shall be reduced by the amount of credit allowed under subsection (a) (determined without regard to subsection (b)) for the taxable year.

“(3) REDUCTION FOR ASSISTANCE.—The amount taken into account under subsection (a) with respect to any project shall be reduced by the amount of any Federal, State, or local grant or other assistance received by the taxpayer during such taxable year or any prior taxable year which was used to make qualified expenditures and which was not included in the gross income of such taxpayer.”

(b) BASIS ADJUSTMENT.—Section 1016(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (36), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (37) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(38) to the extent provided in section 30D(e)(1).”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 30C the following new item:

“Sec. 30D. Credit for expenses incurred in hurricane or flood protection projects.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007.

SA 1088. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. INNER HARBOR NAVIGATION CANAL LOCK PROJECT.

Not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary shall—

(1) issue a final environmental impact statement relating to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock project; and

(2) develop and maintain a transportation mitigation program relating to that project in coordination with—

(A) St. Bernard Parish;

(B) Orleans Parish;

(C) the Old Arabi Neighborhood Association; and

(D) other interested parties.

SA 1089. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 209, line 1, strike “The” and insert “Subject to paragraph (5), the”.

On page 210, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(5) REQUIREMENT.—No Federal funds shall be used to conduct any study, or to carry out any activity relating to the design or construction, of the visitors center under this subsection until the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the State of Louisiana, certifies to Congress that all residents of the State of Louisiana who were displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Rita in 2005 are no longer living in temporary housing.

SA 1090. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 11, strike line 5 and insert the following:

(6) IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the

On page 11, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(B) REQUIREMENT.—No Federal funds shall be used for beach nourishment for Imperial Beach, California, until the date on which the Secretary certifies to Congress that the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project has been completed.

SA 1091. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, insert the following new division:

DIVISION B—EMERGENCY WAR APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 100. EMERGENCY WAR APPROPRIATIONS.

There are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE II GRANTS

For an additional amount for “Public Law 480 Title II Grants”, during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years’ costs, including interest thereon, under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$350,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL
ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities”, \$4,093,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES
ATTORNEYS

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses, United States Attorneys”, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES
MARSHALS SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses, United States Marshals Service”, \$14,921,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$1,736,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$118,260,000.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$8,468,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS,
AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$17,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—MILITARY
MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Army”, \$8,510,270,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Navy”, \$692,127,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$1,386,871,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$1,101,287,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Army”, \$147,244,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Navy”, \$72,800,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Air Force”, \$3,000,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Army”, \$436,025,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$20,423,379,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$5,040,482,000, of which \$120,293,000 shall be transferred to Coast Guard, “Operating Expenses”, for reimbursement for activities in support of activities requested by the Navy.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$1,401,594,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, \$7,035,881,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, \$3,279,307,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve”, \$74,049,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve”, \$111,066,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve”, \$13,591,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve”, \$10,160,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard”, \$83,569,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL

GUARD

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard”, \$38,429,000.

AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND

For an additional amount for “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund”, \$5,906,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND

For an additional amount for “Iraq Security Forces Fund”, \$3,842,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

IRAQ FREEDOM FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Iraq Freedom Fund”, \$455,600,000, to remain available for transfer until September 30, 2008.

JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT
FUND

For an additional amount for “Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund”,

\$2,432,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Army”, \$627,750,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Army”, \$160,173,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED

COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army”, \$3,502,315,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”, \$681,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Army”, \$10,946,687,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, \$730,713,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Weapons Procurement, Navy”, \$171,813,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND

MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$159,833,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Navy”, \$745,425,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Marine Corps”, \$2,055,715,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force”, \$1,726,336,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Air Force”, \$140,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force”, \$95,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Air Force”, \$2,092,754,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Defense-Wide”, \$979,380,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND
EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND

EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army”, \$115,976,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND

EVALUATION, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy”,

\$460,175,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force", \$220,721,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide", \$650,864,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND

For an additional amount for "National Defense Sealift Fund", \$5,000,000.

DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For an additional amount for "Defense Working Capital Funds", \$1,315,526,000.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For an additional amount for "Defense Health Program", \$1,123,147,000.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense", \$259,115,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That these funds may be used only for such activities related to Afghanistan and Central Asia: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer such funds only to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; and research, development, test and evaluation: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation.

RELATED AGENCY

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for "Intelligence Community Management Account", \$66,726,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER

SEC. 1301. Appropriations provided in this chapter are available for obligation until September 30, 2007, unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1302. Upon his determination that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary of Defense may transfer between appropriations up to \$7,000,000,000 of the funds made available to the Department of Defense in this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this section: *Provided further*, That the authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109-289; 120 Stat. 1257), except for the fourth proviso: *Provided fur-*

ther, That funds previously transferred to the "Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund" and the "Iraq Security Forces Fund" under the authority of section 8005 of Public Law 109-289 and transferred back to their source appropriations accounts shall not be taken into account for purposes of the limitation on the amount of funds that may be transferred under section 8005.

SEC. 1303. Funds appropriated in this chapter, or made available by the transfer of funds in or pursuant to this chapter, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

SEC. 1304. None of the funds provided in this chapter may be used to finance programs or activities denied by Congress in fiscal years 2006 or 2007 appropriations to the Department of Defense or to initiate a procurement or research, development, test and evaluation new start program without prior written notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 1305. During fiscal year 2007, the Secretary of Defense may transfer not to exceed \$6,300,000 of the amounts in or credited to the Defense Cooperation Account, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608, to such appropriations or funds of the Department of Defense as he shall determine for use consistent with the purposes for which such funds were contributed and accepted: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be available for the same time period as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall report to the Congress all transfers made pursuant to this authority.

SEC. 1306. (a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.—Of the amount appropriated by this title under the heading, "Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense", not to exceed \$60,000,000 may be used for support for counter-drug activities of the Governments of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan: *Provided*, That such support shall be in addition to support provided for the counter-drug activities of such Governments under any other provision of the law.

(b) TYPES OF SUPPORT.—

(1) Except as specified in subsection (b)(2) of this section, the support that may be provided under the authority in this section shall be limited to the types of support specified in section 1033(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85, as amended by Public Laws 106-398, 108-136, and 109-364) and conditions on the provision of support as contained in section 1033 shall apply for fiscal year 2007.

(2) The Secretary of Defense may transfer vehicles, aircraft, and detection, interception, monitoring, and testing equipment to said Governments for counter-drug activities.

SEC. 1307. (a) From funds made available for operations and maintenance in this title to the Department of Defense, not to exceed \$456,400,000 may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to fund the Commander's Emergency Response Program, for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility by carrying out programs that will immediately assist the Iraqi and Afghan people.

(b) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the source of funds and the allocation and use of funds during that quarter that were made available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any

other provision of law for the purposes of the programs under subsection (a).

SEC. 1308. During fiscal year 2007, supervision and administration costs associated with projects carried out with funds appropriated to "Afghanistan Security Forces Fund" or "Iraq Security Forces Fund" in this chapter may be obligated at the time a construction contract is awarded: *Provided*, That for the purpose of this section, supervision and administration costs include all in-house Government costs.

SEC. 1309. Section 1005(c)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364) is amended by striking "\$310,277,000" and inserting "\$376,446,000".

SEC. 1310. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government for a purpose as follows:

(1) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) To exercise United States control over any oil resource of Iraq.

SEC. 1311. None of the funds made available in this division may be used in contravention of the following laws enacted or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (done at New York on December 10, 1984):

(1) Section 2340A of title 18, United States Code;

(2) Section 2242 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (division G of Public Law 105-277; 112 Stat. 2681-822; 8 U.S.C. 1231 note) and regulations prescribed thereto, including regulations under part 208 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 95 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(3) Sections 1002 and 1003 of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-148).

SEC. 1312. Section 9007 of Public Law 109-289 is amended by striking "20" and inserting "287".

SEC. 1313. INSPECTION OF MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES, MILITARY QUARTERS HOUSING MEDICAL HOLD PERSONNEL, AND MILITARY QUARTERS HOUSING MEDICAL HOLD-OVER PERSONNEL. (a) PERIODIC INSPECTION REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall inspect each facility of the Department of Defense as follows:

(A) Each military medical treatment facility.

(B) Each military quarters housing medical holdover personnel.

(C) Each military quarters housing medical holdover personnel.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of an inspection under this subsection is to ensure that the facility or quarters concerned meets acceptable standards for the maintenance and operation of medical facilities, quarters housing medical holdover personnel, or quarters housing medical holdover personnel, as applicable.

(b) ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS.—For purposes of this section, acceptable standards for the operation and maintenance of military medical treatment facilities, military quarters housing medical holdover personnel, or military quarters housing medical holdover personnel are each of the following:

(1) Generally accepted standards for the accreditation of nonmilitary medical facilities, or for facilities used to quarter individuals with medical conditions that may require

medical supervision, as applicable, in the United States.

(2) Standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(c) ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS ON IDENTIFIED DEFICIENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event a deficiency is identified pursuant to subsection (a) at a facility or quarters described in paragraph (1) of that subsection—

(A) the commander of such facility or quarters, as applicable, shall submit to the Secretary a detailed plan to correct the deficiency; and

(B) the Secretary shall reinspect such facility or quarters, as applicable, not less often than once every 180 days until the deficiency is corrected.

(2) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER INSPECTIONS.—An inspection of a facility or quarters under this subsection is in addition to any inspection of such facility or quarters under subsection (a).

(d) REPORTS ON INSPECTIONS.—A complete copy of the report on each inspection conducted under subsections (a) and (c) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the applicable military medical command and to the congressional defense committees.

(e) REPORT ON STANDARDS.—In the event no standards for the maintenance and operation of military medical treatment facilities, military quarters housing medical hold personnel, or military quarters housing medical holdover personnel exist as of the date of the enactment of this Act, or such standards as do exist do not meet acceptable standards for the maintenance and operation of such facilities or quarters, as the case may be, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after that date, submit to Congress a report setting forth the plan of the Secretary to ensure—

(1) the adoption by the Department of standards for the maintenance and operation of military medical facilities, military quarters housing medical hold personnel, or military quarters housing medical holdover personnel, as applicable, that meet—

(A) acceptable standards for the maintenance and operation of such facilities or quarters, as the case may be; and

(B) standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

(2) the comprehensive implementation of the standards adopted under paragraph (1) at the earliest date practicable.

SEC. 1314. From funds made available for the “Iraq Security Forces Fund” for fiscal year 2007, up to \$155,500,000 may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide assistance, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to the Government of Iraq to support the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of militias and illegal armed groups.

CHAPTER 4

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY

ADMINISTRATION

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For an additional amount for “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation”, \$63,000,000.

CHAPTER 5

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Army”, \$1,289,290,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*,

That of the funds provided under this heading, \$280,300,000 shall not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense certifies that none of the funds are to be used for the purpose of providing facilities for the permanent basing of United States military personnel in Iraq.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$390,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force”, \$60,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law.

CHAPTER 6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$912,996,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which \$67,155,000 for World Wide Security Upgrades is available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not more than \$20,000,000 shall be made available for public diplomacy programs: *Provided further*, That prior to the obligation of funds pursuant to the previous proviso, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations describing a comprehensive public diplomacy strategy, with goals and expected results, for fiscal years 2007 and 2008: *Provided further*, That within 15 days of enactment of this Act, the Office of Management and Budget shall apportion \$15,000,000 from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 8 of title II of division B of Public Law 109–148 under the heading “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” for emergency evacuations: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading for Iraq, not to exceed \$20,000,000 may be transferred to, and merged with, funds in the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” appropriations account, to be available only for emergency evacuations and terrorism rewards.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$35,000,000, to remain available until December 31, 2008.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs”, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for “Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities”, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

RELATED AGENCY

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for “International Broadcasting Operations” for ac-

tivities related to broadcasting to the Middle East, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE

PRESIDENT

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHILD SURVIVAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS FUND

For an additional amount for “Child Survival and Health Programs Fund”, \$161,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available under the heading “Millennium Challenge Corporation” and “Global HIV/AIDS Initiative” in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing and related programs may be made available to combat the avian influenza, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER AND FAMINE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “International Disaster and Famine Assistance”, \$105,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development”, \$5,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

OTHER BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for “Economic Support Fund”, \$3,135,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANCE FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC STATES

For an additional amount for “Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States”, \$279,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, for assistance for Kosovo.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

For an additional amount for “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, \$260,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Migration and Refugee Assistance”, \$71,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND

For an additional amount for “United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund”, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM,

DEMING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Deming and Related Programs”, \$27,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “International Affairs Technical Assistance”, \$2,750,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE

PRESIDENT

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Foreign Military Financing Program”, \$220,000,000, to

remain available until September 30, 2008, for assistance for Lebanon.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Peacekeeping Operations”, \$278,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which up to \$128,000,000 may be transferred, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, to “Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities”, to be made available, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for assessed costs of United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS CHAPTER
AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS

SEC. 1601. Funds appropriated by this title may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

SEC. 1602. Section 1302(a) of Public Law 109-234 is amended by striking “one additional year” and inserting in lieu thereof “two additional years”.

EXTENSION OF OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

SEC. 1603. Section 3001(o)(1)(B) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108-106; 117 Stat. 1238; 5 U.S.C. App., note to section 8G of Public Law 95-452), as amended by section 1054(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2397) and section 2 of the Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-440), is amended by inserting “or fiscal year 2007” after “fiscal year 2006”.

DEBT RESTRUCTURING

SEC. 1604. Amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2007 for “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Department of the Treasury—Debt Restructuring” may be used to assist Liberia in retiring its debt arrearages to the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the African Development Bank.

JORDAN

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1605. Of the funds appropriated by this Act for assistance for Iraq under the heading “Economic Support Fund” that are available to support Provincial Reconstruction Team activities, up to \$100,000,000 may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Foreign Military Financing Program” and “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs” for assistance for Jordan: *Provided*, That funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

LEBANON

SEC. 1606. Prior to the initial obligation of funds made available in this Act for assistance for Lebanon under the headings “Foreign Military Financing Program” and “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, the Secretary of State shall certify to the Committees on Appropriations that all practicable efforts have been made to ensure that such assistance is not provided to or through any individual, or private or government entity, that advo-

cates, plans, sponsors, engages in, or has engaged in, terrorist activity: *Provided*, That this section shall be effective notwithstanding section 534(a) of Public Law 109-102, which is made applicable to funds appropriated for fiscal year 2007 by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, as amended.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY FUND

SEC. 1607. The Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor shall be responsible for all policy, funding, and programming decisions regarding funds made available under this Act and prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing and related programs for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

SEC. 1608. (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Inspector General of the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (referred to in this section as the “Inspector General”) may use personal services contracts to engage citizens of the United States to facilitate and support the Office of the Inspector General’s oversight of programs and operations related to Iraq and Afghanistan. Individuals engaged by contract to perform such services shall not, by virtue of such contract, be considered to be employees of the United States Government for purposes of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management. The Secretary of State may determine the applicability to such individuals of any law administered by the Secretary concerning the performance of such services by such individuals.

(b) CONDITIONS.—The authority under paragraph (1) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) The Inspector General determines that existing personnel resources are insufficient.

(2) The contract length for a personal services contractor, including options, may not exceed 1 year, unless the Inspector General makes a finding that exceptional circumstances justify an extension of up to 2 additional years.

(3) Not more than 20 individuals may be employed at any time as personal services contractors under the program.

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to award personal services contracts under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2008. A contract entered into prior to the termination date under this paragraph may remain in effect until not later than December 31, 2009.

(d) OTHER AUTHORITIES NOT AFFECTED.—The authority under this section is in addition to any other authority of the Inspector General to hire personal services contractors.

SPENDING PLAN AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

SEC. 1609. Not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report detailing planned expenditures for funds appropriated under the headings in this chapter, except for funds appropriated under the headings “International Disaster and Famine Assistance”, “Office of the United States Agency for International Development Inspector General”, and “Office of the Inspector General”: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under the headings in this chapter, except for funds appropriated under the headings named in this section, shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

CIVILIAN RESERVE CORPS

SEC. 1610. Of the funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “DIPLOMATIC AND

CONSULAR PROGRAMS” and “Economic Support Fund” (except for the Community Action Program), up to \$50,000,000 may be made available to support and maintain a civilian reserve corps. Funds made available under this section shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

TITLE II

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE
ACCOUNT, 2005

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005, established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$3,136,802,000, to remain available until expended.

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS DIVISION
AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

SEC. 2201. No part of any appropriation contained in this division shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION FOR TITLE I

SEC. 2202. Amounts provided in title I of this division are designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION FOR TITLE II

SEC. 2203. Amounts provided in title II of this division are designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

This division may be cited as the “Support Our Troops Act of 2007”.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK CASE OF IN RE GAULT, ET AL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 194.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 194) commemorating the 40th anniversary of the landmark case *In re Gault, et al.*, in which the Supreme Court held that all children accused of delinquent acts and facing a proceeding in which their freedom may be curtailed have a right to counsel in the proceedings against them.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision of *In re Gault* in 1967, in which the Court declared that children accused of delinquent acts have a constitutional right to counsel. Before that decision, children accused of delinquency had virtually no legal rights. They were at the mercy of a legal system that often led to unjust results. Gerald Gault’s experience illustrates the injustices that often took place.

When he was 15 years old, Gerald was accused of a delinquent act that involved making a nuisance phone call. He was swept up in a juvenile justice system that had almost no procedural

safeguards. Basic rights available to adults were denied to him. He was sentenced by the juvenile court to 6 years in his State's Youth Industrial School, with no right to appeal the decision. Fortunately, his parents didn't give up. They filed a writ of habeas corpus for his release.

Gerald's case eventually reached the Supreme Court, which held that proceedings against juveniles must meet the essential requirements of the due process clause of the 14th amendment to the Constitution. These rights included the right to advance notice of the charges, the right to counsel, the privilege against self-incrimination, and the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses. Eventually, the charges against Gerald were dropped, and his case changed the juvenile justice system forever.

In fact, the development of the juvenile justice system was long in coming. Before the 20th century, children as young as 7 years of age could be tried as criminals, and if found guilty, could be sentenced to prison or even to death. The first juvenile court was established just over a century ago in Chicago as a result of the efforts of reformers who were appalled by the denial of rights to young offenders. By 1925, the majority of States had separate courts for juveniles in a system guided by the doctrine of *parens patriae*, which gave each State the authority to act as a parent for children in need of guidance and protection. Under the doctrine, States were able to provide treatment and rehabilitation or safe conditions of confinement for troubled youth, and the Gault decision guaranteed that juvenile offenders would have basic legal rights.

In the years that followed, numerous improvements have been made to the juvenile justice system. In recent years, however, there has been an alarming escalation in the willingness of States to treat children as adults. Nearly 100,000 children today are incarcerated in juvenile facilities, and they may well be the most vulnerable and defenseless group in our criminal justice system. They are routinely sent to adult prisons where they face significant dangers. Juveniles in adult facilities are five times more likely than those in juvenile facilities to report being sexually assaulted. Even more disturbing, the suicide rate of children in adult prisons is over seven times higher than those in juvenile facilities. Their plight is shameful and unacceptable. Clearly, these children deserve better.

Gerald Gault went on to have a long career in the United States Army, rising to the rank of sergeant. He has become a deeply devoted family man and will celebrate his 35th wedding anniversary 5 days after the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in his case. Who knows what would have happened to Gerald if he had not been given his due process rights and had been locked away instead in a deten-

tion center? The anniversary of the Gault decision is a time for all of us to remember that the juvenile justice system is there to protect the rights of the Nation's children, and this resolution enables us to renew our commitment to building on the legacy of that historic decision.

With this resolution, the Senate acknowledges the need for the Nation to recommit to the goals and purposes of this landmark decision to finally achieve the goals set forth in the Gault decision. I am pleased that the resolution has the support of so many organizations and individuals across the country, including the National Juvenile Defender Center, Harvard Law School, the Child Welfare League, the ACLU, the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, the Center for Children's Law and Policy, the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild in Boston, the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts and so many other distinguished individuals fighting for a better justice system for all children in the United States.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD as if given.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 194) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 194

Whereas, on May 15, 1967, the Supreme Court recognized in *In re Gault, et al.*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967) that all children accused of delinquent acts and facing a proceeding in which their freedom may be curtailed have a right to counsel in the proceedings against them;

Whereas the Supreme Court held that proceedings against juveniles must meet the essential requirements of the due process clause of the 14th amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas the Gault decision recognized that the constitutional protections of due process extend to juveniles the right to fundamental procedural safeguards in juvenile courts, including the right to advance notice of the charges against them, the right to counsel, the privilege against self-incrimination, and the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses; and

Whereas, 40 years after the Gault decision, some children appear in court with no legal counsel at all: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors the 40th anniversary of the decision in *In re Gault, et al.*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967);

(2) encourages all people of the United States to recognize and honor the 40th anniversary of the Gault decision;

(3) supports strategies to improve the juvenile justice system that appreciate the unique nature of childhood and adolescence; and

(4) pledges to acknowledge and address the modern day disparities that remain for children after the Gault decision.

IRAQ FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding, prior to my doing the closing—and I don't know if the distinguished Republican leader has anything today—it is my understanding that the Senator from Virginia wanted to make a statement. Does the Senator from Kentucky have anything to say?

Mr. McCONNELL. No, Mr. President, I don't have anything to add.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if I may engage our respected leaders in a colloquy regarding the passage last night of the House supplemental. I am speaking for, I think, a number of Senators on both sides of the aisle, who have some thoughts with regard to how we proceed on the funding issue. I personally—speaking for myself—believe we should have no bifurcation of the funding and that it should all be acted upon at one time. I am very anxious that the tentative schedule of the leadership is before Memorial Day. That is most important.

I hope some of us could address the Senate and the leadership regarding the subject of benchmarks. I read with great interest that the President is openminded on the question of benchmarks. I believe it is important that, in September, General Petraeus is going to give us a report, together with the U.S. Ambassador, and presumably the Secretaries of State and Defense will join in that very important report to the Congress—indeed, to the whole country—with regard to the status of things in Iraq in September. I do believe there is such a rapidly unfolding situation over there—we don't know from day to day how to anticipate certain things. Earlier this morning, General Mixon reported that he didn't have sufficient forces, U.S. forces and presumably Iraqi forces, to perform his mission in Diyala Province.

I am hopeful, speaking for myself, that we can put in some language tied to benchmarks by which the President, before we go out on the August recess, would report to the Nation and to the Congress on his judgment as to whether there is progress on the benchmarks and whether he feels that in the July timeframe some change in strategy must be brought about in order to achieve the goals of the original strategy laid down on January 10 of this year.

My language would not have any obstruction to the flow of funds, but it would simply keep the Nation and the Congress fully informed of his judgment, together with his senior advisers, at that critical time before we go out on the August recess. I believe we have a responsibility, first and foremost, to the men and women in the Armed Forces, their families, and to the country for the Congress to watch this situation very closely and not defer until the September timeframe the concentrated judgment that would

be brought to bear on the receiving of the report in September.

To what extent can you advise us as to the process that might be followed in order to expeditiously get to the conference but at the same time either the conferees be informed of the views of others or we have some mechanism by which to address the issue?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are many issues—in fact, most issues that come before this body deal with monetary things, policy issues, which do not deal with the lives of our men and women in uniform. This issue does. I cannot speak for my Republican counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL, but I can say without any question that I believe he and I are arm-locked in the recognition of how serious this is and how we have to do the very best the Senate can do. We are going to try to do that.

This is a time when we have to work on a nonpartisan basis—not bipartisan but a nonpartisan basis—to get a matter to the House of Representatives so we can do a conference. At this stage, I have to say to my friend from Virginia, who is so knowledgeable about things military, we don't know how we are going to do that yet. That is a fair statement. Everything is on the table. But how we take things off the table and put certain things back on the table, I don't know at this stage. I don't think my friend from Kentucky does, either, but we are open for suggestions and comments. It is not an easy situation. The House of Representatives is a different body than we are. The majority party there can do what they want to do. We cannot do that. This is the Senate, which is divided, as we speak, 50 to 49. So we have to work together.

I say to my friend that I understand his involvement in this. He has worked

over the years very well with the Democrats. I look forward to that continuing during the supplemental appropriations bill. Speaking for me, I don't know how we are going to get there, but we are going to try. We have no choice. Failure is not an option.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, nobody has done more for his country, for the defense of this country, and for the Armed Forces of this country than the distinguished Senator from Virginia. We thank him for his ongoing advice about how to deal with this most difficult problem.

The majority leader and I are in exactly the same place. I believe the Senator from Virginia is as well. It is our great desire to get to conference and get a bill signed before Memorial Day. Exactly as the majority leader indicated, how we get from here to there is a matter under serious discussion between the two of us and with our members. So we will be working to get the job completed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I only add that I have been as critical of the President as anybody in the Senate. But I have to say that, in the last week or two, his spokesperson, his Chief of Staff, speaking with the authority of the President, has been available to Senator MCCONNELL and me anytime I have asked. I appreciate that. If we are going to get this done, the President has to be part of the solution.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 14,
2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand

adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, May 14; that on Monday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled by the two leaders or their designees; that at 3 p.m., the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1495, as provided for under a previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN
OPEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open today until 2 p.m. for the introduction of legislation, submission of statements, and adding cosponsors.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2 P.M.,
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there is no further business to come before the Senate today. That being the case, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:08 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 14, 2007, at 2 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN CELEBRATION OF U.S. MARSHAL PETER J. ELLIOTT BEING NAMED "TOP COP"

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marshal Peter J. Elliott on being named "Top Cop" of the nation by the National Association of Police Organizations.

The "Top Cop" award pays tribute to the men and women in law enforcement for their amazing services to America's communities. Marshal Elliott was chosen from hundreds of nominations from across the nation, and he was the only person selected from the state of Ohio.

Marshal Elliott grew up in Lakewood, Ohio, and graduated from St. Edward High School. He is a third generation law enforcement officer from the Northern District of Ohio. Four years ago, he was appointed by the President of the United States as the U.S. Marshal to manage the forty counties of the Northern District of Ohio. He is the youngest U.S. Marshal appointed in the history of the district.

Marshal Elliott created The Fugitive Safe Surrender (FSS) program after Cleveland Patrolman Leon Wayne was shot and killed by an individual wanted on a warrant. Under this program, U.S. Marshals Service works with local faith and community-based organizations to provide wanted fugitives a chance to surrender to authorities in a safe environment. FSS not only reduces the risk to law enforcement officers but also reduces injuries and deaths in the communities where fugitives live. I have had the pleasure of working with Marshal Elliott in creating legislation for this program. Last year this legislation was passed and signed into law by President George W. Bush. As a result, Marshal Elliott's idea has been adopted as a national program by the United States Marshals Service.

Along with FSS, in 2003, Marshal Elliott created the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force that has worked to greatly reduce crime in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Also, in 2003, Marshal Elliott helped bring the Gang Resistance Education and Training program to the district to help prevent youth crime and gangs. This program has teamed up with professional sports teams, non-profit organizations, universities and others to help youths in northern Ohio.

It is because of his commitment and remarkable innovation in law enforcement that I wish to acknowledge "Top Cop" Marshal Peter J. Elliott. Marshal Elliott is an outstanding man who has greatly contributed to the safety of his district and the country.

SUPPORTING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK AND NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for National Teacher Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. There is no calling more noble than the profession of educator, as teachers play a vital role in shaping the future of our country and they have a deep impact on every member of our great society.

Like many of my colleagues here in Congress, I can recall wonderful teachers who helped change my life for the better and who have influenced me in profound ways, which they may never fully understand.

Madam Speaker, on a daily basis teachers are tasked with educating all of our children, in some cases spending more hours with students than they spend with their parents. Besides teaching students reading and math, educators help students learn the value of responsibility, social skills, discipline, and respect for themselves and others.

Teachers have the solemn responsibility of shaping the minds of our youth and preparing them intellectually, socially, emotionally, and psychologically to become productive and responsible members of our society.

In a time when so much is asked of our teachers, when they are required to play the role of educator, parent, counselor, and friend, it is imperative that we provide them with the tools needed to accomplish their important jobs.

I will continue to support legislation to fully fund educational initiatives such as Head Start, Pell Grants, and the No Child Left Behind Act, to name a few, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

We cannot continue to emphasize accountability and high-stakes testing for our teachers, who are on the frontlines working with students, without providing them with the resources to fully and effectively accomplish their objectives.

Despite the negative press that the teaching profession regularly endures, in the face of funding cuts and intense scrutiny, I know that every one of my colleagues realizes that the vast majority of our teachers are doing yeomen's work with the resources they are given.

So I would like to commend America's teachers and express my full support for National Teacher Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. As a Member of Congress, I will continue to do all that I can to support your efforts and provide you with the resources you need.

IN HONOR OF CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH MIKE DOWLING

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has distinguished himself as a good coach, a dedicated teacher, and a family friend—coach Mike Dowling, who is retiring after 28 years as football coach at Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota.

Coach Dowling has led the Cougars to five undefeated regular seasons, six district championships, and one regional championship. His overall record of 189 to 102 is certainly impressive. Over 150 of his players have gone on to play college ball and his winning teams have enhanced school spirit and the educational mission of the school.

But a good coach does more than win games; he is also a positive influence on his players. Coach Dowling has helped hundreds of kids reach their full potential both on and off the field. In addition to teaching them how to catch, throw, tackle, and win, he helped teach them good sportsmanship and ethical conduct. His efforts on the field have helped his players build character and taught them how to show and earn respect, play fair, and be responsible—and our society as a whole is better for it.

Although his history students will still benefit from his efforts in the classroom, his players and many fans will miss him on the sidelines next fall. I congratulate Mike on a winning career and I look forward to seeing him in the stands.

TRIBUTE TO CORRY AREA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, from April 28–30, 2007, more than 1200 students from across the country visited Washington, D.C. to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Corry Area High School represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

earned the chance to come to our Nation's capitol and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally acclaimed program display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With various reports and surveys that reveal the lack of civic knowledge and engagement, I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce an enlightened and responsible citizenry.

Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Corry Area High School are: Andrew Blair, Kelsie Boyd, Karen Costello, Abe Herr, Tom Jaggi, Kaisy Kafferlin, Melissa Kimmy, Maggie Mulligan, Mathias Otten, Abby Pelc, Kathryn Robbins, Kim Sperry, Kari Swart, Andrea Vandervort, Lindsey White, and Alexis Wojcicehowski.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Craig Dean, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Beth Specker, the state coordinator, and Marlene Shellito, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my state.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.

RECOGNIZING MOLECULAR
IMAGING WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that June 3–9 is Molecular Imaging Week. This year, Molecular Imaging Week is coinciding with SNM's (formally known as the Society of Nuclear Medicine) 54th Annual Meeting, which is taking place here in Washington, D.C. Based in Reston Virginia, SNM, with over 3,900 professional attendees and 180 exhibiting companies, will hold the world's largest event focused exclusively on the fields of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging in Washington, D.C. this year.

Annually, more than 20 million men, women, and children need noninvasive molecular/nuclear medicine procedures. These safe, cost-effective procedures include positron emission tomography (PET) scans to diagnose and monitor treatment of cancer, diagnose neurological disease such as Alzheimer's and stroke, cardiac stress tests, bone scans and follow-up for breast and prostate cancer patients, and lung scans for blood clots.

Molecular imaging and therapy procedures provide safe, painless, and cost-effective techniques to image the body and treat disease.

These procedures are crucial in the early diagnosis of cancer, renal disease, cardiac disease, and Alzheimer's. Imaging procedures often identify abnormalities very early in the progress of a disease—long before many medical problems are apparent with other diagnostic tests. The techniques that are used in molecular imaging include radiotracer imaging/nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS), optical imaging, the PET scan, ultrasound and others.

Molecular imaging offers unique insights that allow a more targeted approach to evaluation and management of heart disease. It also plays a pivotal role in guiding the management of cancer: diagnosis, staging (extent and location), assessing therapeutic targets, monitoring therapy, and evaluating prognosis; and is playing an increasingly significant role in conditions such as tumors, dementias (Alzheimer's and other), movement disorders, seizures disorders and psychiatric disorders.

Molecular imaging delivers on the promise of "personalized medicine"—it can provide patient-specific information that allows tailored treatment of disease. It can show a precise (molecular) level of detail that provides new information for diagnosis. It is also key to the development of pharmaceuticals and genetic therapy. Molecular therapy can target molecules that deliver the therapeutic agent directly to the site of interest, bypassing normal tissue and avoiding the toxic side effects of many current therapies.

In 2005, SNM created the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, an organizational component within SNM, dedicated to all aspects of molecular imaging in the detection and management of disease.

I applaud SNM and its members for their efforts to educate others on this major healthcare innovation during Molecular Imaging Week (June 3–9), and I urge my Colleagues to join me in supporting policies that will continue to keep our Nation on the cutting edge of molecular imaging research.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, a time to express our deep appreciation for the dedication of our nation's teachers.

It is therefore timely to also recognize the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, which celebrated its 20th anniversary earlier this month, for its dedication to teacher excellence.

National Board certification is among the highest credentials in the teaching profession. Teachers speak of National Board certification with great pride.

There are 55,000 National Board certified teachers nationwide and I look forward to seeing more National Board certified teachers in our schools as we seek to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUREAU OF EXPLOSIVES

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, today I would like to commend the unsung heroes who go unnoticed but who get up every morning and think about how to make our lives safer. They are the men and women who make up the independent agency known as the Bureau of Explosives, headquartered in Pueblo, Colorado at the Transportation Technology Center. This month marks the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Bureau of Explosives.

The Bureau of Explosives (BOE) was formally established in 1907 by the railroad industry to serve as an independent agency to promote the safe transportation of explosives. BOE wrote the very first hazardous materials regulations, which were subsequently adopted and expanded upon by the Interstate Commerce Commission and later the U.S. Department of Transportation.

BOE was originally called the Bureau for the Safe Transportation of Explosives, and was created under the American Railway Association (ARA), predecessor of the Association of American Railroads (AAR). With a chemical laboratory and 16 inspectors, the Bureau immediately took the lead in inspecting shipments, encouraging improvements in shipping techniques, and developing rules that form the basis of all modern regulations of hazardous shipments. Although the Bureau was granted considerable enforcement powers by the ARA in its constitution, it encouraged compliance through education. This was accomplished primarily by personally visiting shippers and railroad personnel to explain why the rules were necessary for their safety. Annual reports illustrated examples of situations where the rules were not followed. In 1913, explosives manufacturers and shippers and manufacturers of shipping containers were invited to join the Bureau. Shippers quickly began using the Bureau to improve preparation of their shipments to withstand the rigors of transportation.

Today, the BOE is managed by Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads. BOE inspectors located throughout North America continue to work with more than 350 member North American railroads, hazardous materials shippers, and container manufacturers and repair companies to ensure safe shipping practices. Congratulations on 100 years of work that has paid off, making the transportation of hazardous shipments by rail today safer than at any other time in our nation's history.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLORADO SPRINGS CITY MANAGER LORNE KRAMER

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Lorne Kramer on

the occasion of his retirement on June 30 after 44 years of commendable public service. Prior to his appointment as Colorado Springs City Manager in 2002, Mr. Kramer had served 28 years with the Los Angeles Police Department and more recently for 11 years as the Chief of Police for Colorado Springs.

A capable leader, Mr. Kramer has been a guiding force behind several projects in my hometown including the TOPS renewal, the renovation of Prospect Lake, the improvement of METRO and highway transportation systems, and the establishment of both Stormwater Enterprise and Airport Business Park. In addition to his commendable public service, Mr. Kramer volunteers in his private life with many organizations and serves on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, the Pikes Peak United Way, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Mr. Kramer's list of accolades is impressive. He has received the 2003 Alumni and Friends Award from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and the Graduate School of Public Affairs, the Public Administrator of the Year from the Graduate School of Public Administration at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and was appointed by the Governor of Colorado to the Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission and the Drug Control Systems Improvement Committee.

Colorado's Fifth District is fortunate to count among its citizens a man of Mr. Kramer's accomplishments. I am certain that though he is retiring from public service, Mr. Kramer will continue to have a positive impact on the Colorado Springs Community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 100th Anniversary of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, a storied tourist destination on California's central coast. The Boardwalk, with its 35 rides and other attractions, has provided a lifetime of memories for millions of people, establishing itself as a national landmark and as a vital component of our community. Situated on a sandy mile-long beach, it is the only remaining major seaside amusement park on the West Coast.

When the Boardwalk first opened on June 15, 1907 it immediately attracted national attention and received a telegram from President Theodore Roosevelt himself. Since then, tens of millions have visited the Boardwalk for fun and entertainment. Its rich history includes Miss California pageants, premier big bands, and daring performers.

I myself have spent many fun-filled days at the Boardwalk with friends and family, both when I was growing up and when I was raising my own child. Those are memories that I will never forget, and I am sure that millions of other families would say the same thing.

The Boardwalk is also unique in that two of its rides have been designated National Historic Landmarks, both built by members of the

Looft family of Danish woodcarvers: the Giant Dipper, a wooden roller coaster built in 1924, and the Looft Carousel, built in 1911. In fact, sometime this year the Giant Dipper will carry its 55 millionth rider on an adventure they won't forget. It is the 6th oldest roller coaster in the U.S., and has been in several major motion pictures.

As the primary asset of a locally owned corporation, the Santa Cruz Seaside Company, the Boardwalk has been an important driving force for our community, employing nearly 1,600 people at the Boardwalk, hotels, and other tourist destinations operated by the Seaside Company. Its active charitable contribution program results in yearly donations of approximately \$100,000 in cash and tickets to local organizations, and it has been repeatedly recognized for its support of ecotourism and its environmental efforts and policies, winning the California State Ecotourism Award in 2002.

As a steward of the environment and the local community, the Boardwalk has made itself indispensable to everyone involved with it. And although it has undergone many changes in the last hundred years, one thing remains the same: the Boardwalk has been, and will continue to be, one of California's premier tourist destinations.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to present the congratulations of my House colleagues to this community icon on this joyous and historic occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIVE ENTREPRENEURS LEGISLATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to provide business developmental assistance to Native American entrepreneurs across the country. I am pleased to be joined in doing so by Representatives ABERCROMBIE, RENZI, MORAN, MICHAUD, GRIJALVA, HERSETH SANDLIN, HONDA, MCCOLLUM, WU, and MOORE.

While our nation has experienced a steady economic expansion over the course of its history, the vast majority of tribal communities have not benefited or experienced similar growth. The unemployment and poverty rates for Native American and Alaska Natives are nearly double those rates for all Americans. Additionally, many tribal communities lack sufficient physical and technological infrastructure, and are hindered by low income levels.

Despite these shocking facts, there are reasons to be optimistic. Many Native American owned businesses are flourishing, while the number of Native American and Alaska Native owned businesses continues to increase. In fact, Indian tribe members and Alaska Natives own more than 201,000 businesses. These businesses employ over 190,000 employees and generate almost \$27 billion in revenues.

My bill works to expand on these entrepreneurial efforts by ensuring that small business owners and budding entrepreneurs can grow their businesses by accessing counseling and technical assistance available through our nation's Small Business Development Centers. The bill does this by authorizing grants that

SBDCs can apply for to provide assistance with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians. The business development tools offered by the SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the information and opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

This legislation also requires SBDCs receiving grants to help with these services to request the advice of the governing bodies of Native American tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations on how to best provide services to their tribal members. This ensures assistance from the SBDC that is culturally sensitive and appropriate.

It is clear we must do more to assist Native American entrepreneurs in building their businesses, which will, in turn, benefit their communities. With Congress's support, this initiative can play an important role in bringing economic growth to our nation's Native American lands. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and help foster entrepreneurial opportunities on areas of this nation that have thus far been left behind.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH B. SUMMERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, earlier, California lost one of its great water experts with the death of Joseph B. Summers.

Joe was once deemed "Watermaster" for several water entities in central and southern California. His knowledge, skill and a lifetime of experience brought many people seeking his advice on a multitude of water issues. His wise counsel is greatly missed.

Joe was born in Iowa and served in World War II as a B-24 Bombardier in Europe. He obtained a degree in civil engineering and began his career with the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of Interior in Denver where he met his wife, Rose. Moving to California in the 1950s, he worked for the Modesto Irrigation District and then was principal engineer for Stoddard and Karrer Engineers in Los Banos.

After establishing his own firm in Kings County, California in 1962, he was an engineering consultant for the Tulare Lake Drainage District to determine the drainage needs of the area and designing a drainage system for the Tulare Lake Bed near the town of Corcoran. At the same time, he negotiated contracts with the California Department of Water Resources for water supplies from the California Aqueduct, then under construction, for water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to southern California. In addition to those duties, he was principal engineer for the Solano Irrigation District in Solano County, California.

During the 1990s Joe undertook one of the most difficult tasks in U.S. water history: chairing the oversight committee which crafted a \$100 million agreement between the Southern California Metropolitan Water District, the supplier of water to much of the Los Angeles area, and the Imperial Irrigation District. It was one of the most complex water negotiations

undertaken and settled a long-term and previously intractable issue. Its settlement was an achievement unparalleled in California and U.S. water history.

As recently as 2003, Joe was chairman of two coordination committees to oversee the concrete lining of the Coachella Canal and All-American Canal in southern California to reduce seepage which will conserve thousands of acre feet of water annually. The projects are key components of an agreement reached on the allocation of Colorado River water among competing entities in the state and helped resolve issues among states who are parties to the Colorado River Compact.

Joe's Iowa farm experience served him when he applied his engineering expertise to develop cultivation techniques in the cultivation of his walnut farm near Hanford, California. His agriculture leadership was recognized as he was the first recipient of the Merriam Improved Irrigation Award and induction into the University of Iowa's College of Engineering's Distinguished Engineering Alumni Academy. Joe's local contributions include serving on the Hanford Community Foundation.

Joe was an inspiration and mentor to young people interested in hard work, achievement and having an impact on their chosen professions. His friendship and expertise are greatly missed.

THE 11TH ANNUAL WORLD
CONGRESS ON CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 11th World Congress on Civic Education, which will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 17–21. The conference, hosted by Conciencia Argentina and the U.S.-based Center for Civic Education, will welcome delegates from over 60 countries, including leaders of civic education organizations throughout the world. Participants will discuss best practices for imparting the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for democratic citizenship to students living in established and emerging democracies.

Through a national and international network of individuals, organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies, Civitas International Programs have responded for more than a decade to the wave of democratization sweeping through Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Civitas International Programs are directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act. They are implemented by the U.S. State Department and USAID, in cooperation with nongovernmental and governmental institutions in the United States and abroad.

The goals of the Civitas International Programs are to:

Acquaint international educators with exemplary curricular and teacher training programs in civic education developed in the United States and other participating nations.

Assist international educators in creating, adapting, implementing, and institutionalizing

effective civic education programs in their own countries.

Create and implement civic education programs for students in the United States that will help them better understand the history and experiences of both established and emerging democracies.

Facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences in civic education among educational, governmental, and private sector leaders in the United States and other countries.

Encourage independent research and evaluation that will determine the effectiveness of civic education in providing students with the knowledge and character traits essential to the preservation and future progress of democracy.

I applaud the outstanding achievements of the Civitas International Programs, and wish the delegates to the 11th World Congress on Civic Education much success in their continued efforts throughout the world in developing a political culture supportive of democratic values, principles, and institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 3, 2007, I requested and received a leave of absence from May 3 to May 9, 2007, due to my presence at previous commitments in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 315, the Tom Davis of Virginia Amendment, "no"; Rollcall No. 316, the Thompson of Mississippi Amendment, "aye"; Rollcall No. 317, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; Rollcall No. 318, on Passage, Homeland Security Authorization Act, "aye".

Madam Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent from the chamber from March 21, 2007 to March 22, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 167, Motion to Permit to Proceed in Order on This Day, "aye"; Rollcall No. 168, the Neugebauer of Texas Amendment, "no"; Rollcall No. 169, the Price of Georgia Amendment, "no"; Rollcall No. 170, the Al Green of Texas Amendment, as Modified, "aye"; Rollcall No. 171, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; Rollcall No. 172, on Passage, Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act, "aye"; Rollcall No. 173, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 835, "aye"; Rollcall No. 174, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 327, "aye"; Rollcall No. 175, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 797, "aye"; Rollcall No. 176, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 1284, "aye"; Rollcall No. 177, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 1130, "aye"; Rollcall No. 178, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 740, "aye"; Rollcall No. 179, on Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 260, "aye"; Rollcall No. 180, on Agreeing to the Resolution, "aye"; Rollcall No. 181, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Con. Res. 66, "aye"; Rollcall No. 182, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 261, "aye"; Rollcall No. 183, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, "aye";

Rollcall No. 184, on Approving the Journal, "aye".

CONGRATULATING PAM SCHMIDT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, dedicated and passionate teachers are vital to the education and development of our future generations. Today, I am honored to recognize Ms. Pam Schmidt, an eighth grade science teacher, in Aurora, Colorado. Ms. Schmidt is a recipient of the 2007 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence for her exceptional efforts and commitment to provide her students with an outstanding science curriculum.

Ms. Schmidt, the 1997 Colorado Teacher of the Year, seeks to inspire her students to explore the world around them by providing hands-on experiences such as collecting fossils in the Badlands of Wyoming or caring for one of the 47 classroom snakes. Through her efforts and example, Ms. Schmidt has helped foster a love of science and provided a better learning environment for her students.

The Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given by Amgen, an internationally known biotechnology company with branches in Colorado. The Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given to teachers in public and private schools whose dedication to imparting a love of learning and interest in science to the future generations. The recipients are selected by an independent panel that judges the applicants on effectiveness and creativity of teaching methods and how they plan to use the grant money to further science education in their schools.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
MORGAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Morgan for his service of 10 years as founding Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Los Vegas.

Dean Richard Morgan has overseen the development of the Boyd School of Law. His vision and commitment to academic excellence, as well as his talents as an academic administrator allowed the Boyd School of Law to receive full American Bar Association accreditation in five years, a truly incredible accomplishment.

Prior to becoming Dean of the Boyd School of Law, Morgan contributed to the legal profession in a number of different forums. From 1972 through 1980, Morgan served as an Associate, and later Partner, at the law firm of Krueger & Marsh in Los Angeles, California. In 1980, Morgan dedicated himself to the study of law and became an Associate Professor of Law at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. In 1983, Morgan was named Associate Dean of Arizona State University, a position

he held until being offered a position as Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1987. In 1990, Morgan returned to Arizona State University as a Dean and Professor of Law and remained there until taking up the audacious task of founding the Boyd School of Law at the University of Las Vegas in 1997. The Boyd School of Law has produced over 800 graduates who have gone on to effect change in the communities in which they work as public servants, community leaders, legislators, and advocates.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud to recognize Dean Richard Morgan. His contributions to the legal profession and his leadership at the Boyd School of Law are commendable. I thank him for his service to the University of Las Vegas community and with him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIE "BILL"
IVERSON GOLDEN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize Bill Golden, an outstanding Georgian who has dedicated his life to the betterment of society through his involvement in higher education and public service. Bill has been a friend and ally in working towards a brighter future for my constituents and the people of Georgia.

For the past sixteen years, Bill has served as the Director of Governmental Relations for the University of Georgia in Statesboro, Georgia. During most of this time, he also served as Georgia Southern University's Foundation President as well as the Director of Development. During his tenure there, Bill helped obtain over both public and private funding for many initiatives and spearheaded a government relations program between the university and Georgia's congressional delegation.

Before coming to Georgia Southern University, Bill worked at the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service, providing administrative support for the development and implementation of a statewide program in international trade and development and provided leadership for all counties in Georgia. He also served as an Assistant County Agent for Twiggs County, Georgia and worked to improve the county's 4-H and youth program. In addition, Bill aided in the development of the consulting firm Economark, Inc. which was developed to provide technical assistance in the area of economic and community development.

Bill's extensive leadership ability has also translated into his community involvement. For instance, he has served as the Director for Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce, President of the Alumni Society for Middle Georgia College, and chair of the 13-State Advisory Committee for the Southern Rural Development Center. He has also served as President and Board Member of the Certified Public Managers Association, a member of the Board of Directors of Georgia Industrial Developers Association, and the Vice President, representing the first congressional district, Board of Managers for The University of Georgia Alumni Society.

In light of Bill's outstanding record of commitment to others and dedication to excellence, it is with great pleasure that I rise in his honor. As Bill enters retirement I wish him continued happiness and success.

CONGRATULATING CAROLYN
CRAPO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, dedicated and passionate teachers are vital to the education and development of our future generations. Today, I am honored to recognize Ms. Carolyn Crapo, a high school physics teacher, in Aurora, Colorado. Ms. Crapo is a recipient of the 2007 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence for her exceptional efforts and commitment to provide her students with an outstanding science curriculum.

Ms. Crapo seeks to inspire her students to explore the world around them by providing hands-on. Through her efforts and example, Ms. Crapo has helped foster a love of science and provided a better learning environment for her students.

The Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given by Amgen, an internationally known biotechnology company with branches in Colorado. The Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence is given to teachers in public and private schools whose dedication to imparting a love of learning and interest in science to the future generations. The recipients are selected by an independent panel that judges the applicants on effectiveness and creativity of teaching methods and how they plan to use the grant money to further science education in their schools.

IN HONOR OF WALTER PARKER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize Walter Parker an outstanding Georgian and statesman. Walter has long been recognized by the citizens of Tybee Island and Chatham County for the vital role that he has played in community leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the residents of Tybee Island.

This outstanding public servant loyally served as Mayor of Tybee Island for 16 years and contributed enormously to the beautification and preservation of the island and to the refurbishment of the island's endangered beaches. As demonstration of his commitment to Tybee Island, Walter Parker was actively involved in many beach revitalization programs affecting the area and he also appointed the first Tybee Beautification Commission. Walter served as a leading advocate for state-wide support for the rebuilding of the Tybee Island Pier and Pavilion and initiated a massive cleanup and repair project dedicated to Tybee's municipal buildings. His tireless efforts

resulted in a new spirit of community in preparation for Tybee's 1987 Centennial.

Walter's commitment to the residents of Tybee Island is further demonstrated by his service on and involvement with many local, state, and national associations, boards and committees affecting the development of the city, including the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and Governor's Comprehensive Plan for Georgia's Coasts.

As Mayor of Tybee Island he demanded excellence in public service from the city's vital service agencies. Walter's hard work and visionary spirit provided a framework upon which future generations could build and helped to preserve a strategic area of the State of Georgia for all to enjoy.

It has been my pleasure working with Walter for many years for the betterment of our common constituency and for all those who know and love Tybee. Throughout our friendship, Walter has proven to be an efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public servant to his community and the citizens of this state. I extend to him my most sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber during the morning of Friday, April 20, 2007. Had I been present for the seven rollcall votes taken on amendments to H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, I would have voted "nay" on each one. This includes a "nay" vote on rollcalls numbered 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, and 242.

HONORING MOTHER'S DAY AND
SUPPORTING THE BREAST CANCER
AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my mother and all the women in my life. On behalf of these women, I demand answers to the question of what causes breast cancer. This disease has impacted virtually every American's life. More than three million women are currently living with breast cancer, and each year tens of thousands of women die from this disease.

A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime—this risk was 1 in 11 in 1975. Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women. While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

Scientific evidence about whether the environment plays a role in the development of breast cancer is scarce. There is a clear need for research on the potential relationship between environmental factors and breast cancer, and federal commitment is critical to the

overall, national strategy and to the long-term research investments needed for this effort to succeed.

To further this important research, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This bipartisan legislation was introduced again this Congress by Representatives LOWEY, MYRICK and CAPPS.

Madam Speaker, this bill would create a competitive, peer-reviewed research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. It is modeled after the successful peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense. A key component of this bill is inclusion of consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.

Let's continue to fight the war on breast cancer, and invest in getting the answers to eradicating this disease, in honor of all our mothers. Pledge your support today, by joining me in co-sponsoring the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, and in working towards enacting it this year.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL UOFL
DAY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I have the distinct privilege of rising in recognition of National UoFL Day, which honors the University of Louisville for its outstanding academic achievements, tremendous growth in recent years, and exceptional contributions to the Louisville community.

In the last decade we in Louisville saw unprecedented strides for our premier University, as it grew into one of the foremost research institutions in the country.

At Louisville's Jewish Hospital, doctors on the UoFL faculty implanted the nation's first successful artificial heart and performed the first three hand transplants, while Louisville scientists Ben Jenson and Shin-je Ghim discovered the first cervical cancer vaccine, and three year-old Chase Ford became the first child to regain the ability to walk after a spinal cord injury using ground-breaking rehabilitative therapy, developed by UoFL researcher Susan Harkema.

Due to these and other accomplishments, the school has experienced the most growth in National Institute of Health funding of any institution, and the number of endowed chairs at the University has more than doubled.

UoFL's student body has seen their average A.C.T. scores increase by nearly four points and the graduation rate rise by over 10 percent.

The University's commitment to the betterment of our community manifests itself in every facet of Louisville life, from its alliance with Project Women to its work with Partnership for a Green City to the new Signature Partnership Initiative, which will provide resources to areas of the city that need them most.

The landmark Cardinal Covenant program, which made UoFL the first public higher learning institution in Kentucky to promise a debt-

free education to students from low-income families, reaffirms a commitment that I share with the University: providing a world-class education to all capable, hard-working students.

Though the recent achievements are astounding, President James Ramsey continues to set goals for the future that are loftier still. Under the leadership of Dr. Ramsey, the pursuit of excellence can be seen each day in the students, faculty, administration, and alumni and the competence with which they chart the school's course guarantees many more milestones in the coming years.

And so, for the great distance that has already been covered, and for displaying the vision and capability to excel in the future, I am proud to share the Cardinal spirit by recognizing National UoFL Day and thanking the University of Louisville for all it has done for our community.

ON THE IMPROVING HEAD START
ACT OF 2007

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the The Improving Head Start Act of 2007. For 40 years, Head Start has provided comprehensive child development, literacy, and family services to more than 20 million pre-schoolers from low-income and working poor families. It is unquestionably the most effective early childhood development program ever developed.

Head Start graduates are less likely to need special education services, to be left back a grade or to get into trouble with the law. They are more likely to go on to college and to have professional careers.

At a time when there is an overwhelming need in our country for quality, affordable early childhood education, we can all understand how powerful this legislation could be. I hope we can all understand our shared obligation today—not only to maintain this incredibly effective program, but to help it reach more children in need.

As time goes by, we continue to learn more and more about the development of young children—their language development, their social-emotional development, even their brain development—and it all points to the fact that quality education and early engagement, from both parents and teachers, are essential for our kids' success.

That is why this legislation is so important. It will increase funding for Head Start teacher and staff salaries and professional development, strengthening training and technical assistance. And it will re-evaluate and update Head Start's current standards and assessments based on the best science.

We are going to increase accountability by devising a new system of application review that assesses program quality and leads to re-competition of low-quality centers. We are going to boost cooperation between Head Start and state and local child care programs to increase full-day and full-year services. And we are going to allow programs to convert portions of their grant for use for Early Head Start, which serves children under three years old.

Ultimately, though, this legislation is about expanding access to Head Start for more than 10,000 additional children. Ten thousand more children who will be given the tools to perform significantly better on a range of cognitive, language, and social-emotional development measures. Ten thousand children for whom, studies show, there will be a higher degree of parental involvement in the home and at school. Ten thousand children with a real opportunity to thrive and succeed over the course of their entire lives.

I want to commend and thank Congressmen KILDEE, CASTLE, and Chairman MILLER for their leadership on this critical legislation.

Head Start is a strong and effective program. The growth and success of millions of American children and families is living proof. We have a responsibility to embrace their success, support it, and strengthen it for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in arriving to the chamber earlier today during the recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON, to H.R. 1684, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. Had I been able to record my vote on this amendment, rollcall No. 314, I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2188, THE
KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT
ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in the words of novelist, P.D. James, "What a child doesn't receive he can seldom later give." Our children are entitled to stable, caring homes; if we deny them what they truly deserve, we can anticipate a colder, more uncertain future for our nation.

This week marks the tenth anniversary of subsidized guardianship in Illinois, an innovative program that allows foster children to exit the child welfare system into permanent families while using federal funds to provide caregivers with the level of resources provided to adoptive families of children in foster care. To recognize this milestone, my colleague TIM JOHNSON and I introduced H.R. 2188, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act.

Modeled after the adoption assistance program, innovative programs in Illinois, and recommendations from the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, this bill provides kinship caregivers with the necessary resources to address their children's needs. The bill addresses gaps in existing foster care laws that withhold important supports from children living with relative guardians.

By enacting the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and the Adoption Assistance and

Child Welfare Act of 1980, Congress recognized the need to align Federal incentives with the desired goal of providing abused and neglected children safe, permanent homes. Nearly half a million children make up our nation's foster care population, with more than one in four of these vulnerable children living with a grandparent or other relative. Unfortunately, federal financial assistance currently is available only to foster and adoptive families, with only a few states receiving a waiver to provide subsidized guardianship. However, adoption is not a viable option for many children to exit foster care. For example, courts explicitly rule out this permanency option for approximately 20,000 children in relative care each year. Moreover, adoption is not equally available by families of all races and ethnicities, especially those in African-American and Native-American communities. Thus, subsidized guardianship is an important path to permanency for many abused and neglected children.

The current Federal guidelines also create financial disincentives to guardianship. Almost 19% of kinship care providers live in poverty, and 30% to 40% of children in foster care have chronic medical problems. Subsidized guardianship, like the federal adoption assistance program, provides needed support to these kinship caregivers to afford appropriate care for these vulnerable children. Terminating support to families once guardianship is established presents overwhelming hardships for these children and families that discourage them from leaving foster care. The limited federal support for guardianship is a critical roadblock to permanency for thousands of children, resulting in their remaining in the foster care longer than necessary and possibly aging out of the system without a legal family of their own.

With 10 years of experience under our belts, Illinois shows that subsidized guardianship works. Unfortunately, the subsidized guardianship waiver program expired in 2006. This means that no new states can benefit from the program, and, when the existing waivers for 15 states—including 10 Illinois—expire in the next few years, our children and thousands of children others will be denied this vital permanency option if new subsidized guardianship legislation is not passed.

So, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act allows states the option to provide guardianship assistance to relatives without a waiver. It also implements additional supports for kinship caregivers, such as establishing informational navigator programs to assist grandparents and relatives in accessing appropriate services and supports. Further, it allows states to establish separate licensing standards for relative foster parents and non-relative foster parents and requires state agencies to provide prompt notice to all adult relatives when children are removed from parental custody. The bill also extends innovative Illinois programs to the national level. For example, it expands eligibility for the Foster Care Independence Program so that education and training vouchers as well as independent living services are available to young people who exit foster care after age 14 to guardianship or adoption. It includes as eligible children who live in relative homes determined by the courts and State agency as meeting all applicable State safety standards other than licensure as well.

Subsidized guardianship is a bipartisan issue. Indeed, our bill is a companion bill to

that introduced in the other chamber by Senators HILLARY CLINTON and OLYMPIA SNOWE. Further, as you may recall, the reconciliation bill from the Republican-controlled 109th Congress would have extended authority for these waivers and removed the limit on the number of states eligible, providing further testament to the bipartisan nature of this issue.

As Forest Witcraft said, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child. . . ." As policy makers, we have the ability and responsibility to make a difference in the lives of foster children. We must use that ability to make sure the downtrodden and neglected of today are the achievers and leaders of tomorrow. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Representative JOHNSON in supporting this critical bill.

ARTISTIC DISCOVERY
COMPETITION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winner of this year's California's 32nd Congressional District Congressional "Artistic Discovery" competition and the contribution of all the people that made this event possible. As a Member of Congress, I am proud to support the artistic talent of our local youth by being part of "An Artistic Discovery."

This year students from 16 high schools in California's 32nd Congressional District submitted 186 pieces of work for Artistic Discovery. The winner of the competition was Jose Curiel from Arroyo High School, a resident of El Monte, California, for his piece titled "All Alone." Jose will be invited to Washington, DC, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and will have his artwork displayed in the Cannon Tunnel for 1 year. I am proud of Jose, all the runners up and honorable mentions, and all the youth who participated for sharing their talent with the community.

I would also like to thank the 2007 Artistic Discovery Committee for their support for the arts, for their dedication to California's 32nd Congressional District and their young talent, and for a successful "Artistic Discovery" competition. This event could not have been possible without the time and support of the 2007 Artistic Discovery Committee. This year's committee has truly set a standard with their hard work. I would like to recognize and thank this year's committee:

Denise Tornatore from the Baldwin Park Adult and Community Education School, who served as the Chair of the Committee; Carol Facciponti from Carousel Reality; Pascual Garrido from SCE Federal Credit Union; Irene Portillo from Project Amiga; Billy Rugh from Creative Planet School of the Arts; Michael Carney from AT&T; Elizabeth Bagwell from City of Hope; Kristen Pugh from City of Hope; Marianna Lake from the Valley County Water District; Dr. Ramon Zavala from Baldwin Park Unified; Marissa Castro from Southern California Edison; Helen Romero Shaw from the Gas Company; Nadia Andrade from UPS;

Shirley Batman from Bank of America; Michelle Bart from Helping Heroes Productions; Kevin McDonald from Foothill Transit; and, Debbie Guerra from AT&T Pioneers.

Just as important as the committee's dedication to California's 32nd District's "An Artistic Discovery" competition is the dedication of all the teachers of the participating schools. All our teachers deserve a big thank you for recognizing and supporting the talented students that participated in this event and encouraging them to submit their artwork. I thank all of our teachers for the work and generosity they give each and every day in the classroom. These submitted pieces of artwork are a testament to the energy, enthusiasm, encouragement and support that our teachers are providing.

The artwork that was submitted to California's 32nd District's artistic competition was awe-inspiring. I commend all the students who participated for using their talents in such a positive way and sharing those talents with others. I look forward to next year's "An Artistic Discovery" art competition and encourage all the supporters to continue with their good work.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BILL HARDISTY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, we often hear so much about what is wrong with America. I'd like to focus on what is right. And today throughout America, there are great teachers making a great difference in the lives of their students. As I often say, many people spend their lives building careers but teachers spend their careers building lives.

And few have done it better or longer than Mr. Bill Hardisty, the principal of Cassata High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

This year, Mr. Hardisty concludes a 37-year career in education. For two and a half decades, he served in the Fort Worth Independent School District as a coach, teacher and assistant principal. And for the past 11 years, he has served at Cassata. He started as associate director and in 2002, he was named principal.

Hardisty's service extends beyond our children's education. Before he taught in our schools, he defended our country. A marine who later served in the Army Reserve, Mr. Hardisty was the very embodiment of the noble Marine Corps motto: *Semper Paratus*. He was always faithful.

But it is his work as an educator that has touched the lives of so many future leaders. One of his students later served on my staff. Here is what he told me about Hardisty: "He taught with his heart. He knew that kids don't care what you know until they know that you care. Mr. Hardisty cared. And so his students listened and learned from him."

This is what teachers do: they shape minds and change lives. It was Yeats who wrote that education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire. Thanks to Mr. Hardisty, countless people are today living lives fueled by a flame lit long ago in his classroom.

Cassata High School will miss Mr. Hardisty. But it will never forget him. His leadership and his legacy will live on in the many students whose lives he touched.

Thank you, Bill Hardisty, for your service to your students and your service to your country.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN
SCOTT GARRETT IN HONOR OF
NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to praise some of the most under-valued public servants in our society: American nurses. They are ever-present at every stage of our lives—at our birth, through childhood illnesses and adult traumas, and in our final days. Yet, while people remember the doctor who delivered their children or cared for their aging parents, they rarely remember the friendly, caring individuals who stayed by their side while busy doctors made rounds.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, registered nurses constitute the largest segment of the health care workforce, with more than 2.4 million jobs in 2006. And, they are projected to create the second largest number of new jobs amongst all occupations. Yet, the demand for nurses is far outstripping the supply and many parts of the Nation—from the most urban inner city to the most remote rural community—are experiencing extraordinary nursing shortages.

Nursing is a noble profession, but one which is too often upstaged by other health care professionals and too often given little credit for the enormous role played in sustaining the high quality of American health care. As we celebrate National Nurses Week this week, let us all take a moment to thank the nurses in our hospitals and doctors' offices, nursing homes and hospices, and all throughout our communities for all their tremendous service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1873, SMALL BUSINESS
FAIRNESS IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1873) to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support for H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act and join my colleagues in efforts to ensure that small businesses are given a fair opportunity to compete for Federal contracts. I recognize that government agencies have recently been bundling hundreds of small contracts into single mega-contracts, which are awarded to only the largest contractors.

H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, will un-bundle many of these contracts and level the playing field for small businesses. The bill addresses the major

problems that have resulted in limited opportunities for small businesses in the Federal marketplace. The bill ensures that more contracting opportunities are available to small firms, fights fraud in the contracting process and raises the Federal small business government-wide contracting goal. H.R. 1873 implements changes that will remove a number of the barriers facing entrepreneurs in accessing Federal contracts, creating a more level playing field for this Nation's 26 million small businesses.

I want to thank Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for bringing this legislation to the committee and to the floor. The Detroit region's 420,000 small businesses account for 99.2 percent of all firms; this includes almost 300,000 sole proprietors. Small businesses with employees other than themselves employ 915,000 people or 47 percent of the region's employees. While big businesses have consolidated a large portion of their services and number of employees they hire, small business has helped mitigate the pain with modest but steady employment gains. The continued growth in the small business sector, especially in the formation of fair contracting for the diverse population not only in Detroit, but throughout Michigan, will create much-needed jobs and assist in the diversification of our region's economy.

By law, Federal organizations are required to support small businesses. However, contract bundling has resulted in less small business participation in Federal contracts. It is essential to help remove the barriers blocking small businesses from entering the nearly \$400 billion per year Federal marketplace.

I believe in the value of small businesses as the number one job creators in this country and strongly support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NO OIL
PRODUCING AND EXPORTING
CARTELS ACT OF 2007"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2007" ("NOPEC"), legislation that would effectively force OPEC to begin pricing in a competitive, free market manner or face the possibility of being prosecuted for civil or criminal antitrust violations. This legislation will establish that OPEC's activities are not protected by sovereign immunity and that the Federal courts should not decline to hear such a case based on the "act of state" doctrine. I am joined by Representatives CHABOT and LOFGREN, as original co-sponsors of this bill.

For the past year, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first gulf war. For the past several months, oil prices have remained stubbornly high, sitting above \$65 at the end of last week. Since January of this year, oil prices have climbed more than 20 percent, driving gasoline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia. And as of May 8, 2007, the average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline was \$3.036,

just 2 cents short of the record high reached in September 2005 after Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast.

The group of 12 nations comprising OPEC represent the classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for two-thirds of the world's oil reserves, and over 40 percent of the world's oil production. Most significantly, OPEC's oil exports represent about 70 percent of the oil traded internationally. This affords them considerable control over the global market. Its net oil export revenues should reach nearly \$395 billion this year, and its influence on the oil market is dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective.

It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products.

It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. Federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1157, and, in doing so, to honor my mother and all the women in my life. With Mother's Day approaching on Sunday, May 13, I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act as a tribute to each of our mothers. This bill would invest in the research still necessary to determine the potential links between breast cancer and the environment, so that we can cure it and eventually eradicate this terrible disease.

Currently, despite the efforts of numerous researchers, less than 30 percent of breast

cancers are explained by known risk factors. Though studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors, including diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, there is little conclusive evidence or consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Scientists have also proposed a number of other potential factors which have yet to be formally studied.

Though many experts accept that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role has not been determined. More research is needed to determine the precise impact of the environment on this disease. This bill authorizes a research program at the National Institutes of Health to do just this.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud to stand as one of well over 150 cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation. Because we don't know what causes breast cancer, or how to prevent it, as our Nation's leaders we have a duty to the American public to support legislation that will aid in the fight to understand and combat this devastating disease. I thank all of my colleagues who have already signed on to this bill, and I urge those who have not to, in honor of Mother's Day, join me in addressing this vital women's health concern.

GUILTY PLEA BY PURDUE FREDERICK COMPANY AND TOP EXECUTIVES TO MISBRANDING OXYCONTIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, 12 years ago a landmark painkilling medicine hit the doorstep of doctor's offices and local pharmacies with the promise of less addiction and less likelihood for abuse. This prescription drug provided a sustained-release mechanism with up to 12 hours of pain relief for a sore thumb or a back ache. This drug was billed as a "safe" alternative without the painful withdrawal symptoms of other opioids and enjoyed an FDA designation of "moderate-to-severe" pain, making it wildly popular among unsuspecting doctors and pharmacists. OxyContin seemed to be the answer for real pain relief.

Today, we know these were lies. The manufacturer of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, spent \$500 million marketing this deception and deceit. What began in the boardroom of Purdue Pharma executives has spread like wildfire into the living rooms, bathrooms and classrooms of families seeking pain relief. From 1996 to 2001, the number of oxycodone-related deaths nationwide increased 400 percent while the annual number of OxyContin prescriptions increased nearly 20-fold. Over the same time period, OxyContin brought in \$2.8 billion in revenue for Purdue Pharma, at one point accounting for 90 percent of the company's sales. Purdue heavily promoted OxyContin to unsuspecting doctors, many of whom had little training in the treatment of serious pain or in recognizing signs of drug abuse in patients.

To this profit-making scheme came the unsuspecting victim of eastern Kentucky. The birthplace of bluegrass music and the rich

story of Daniel Boone became ground zero in the war against the illegal diversion of prescription drugs. Appalachia Kentucky is home to a proud people, skilled in the crafts and arts, family-oriented and hardworking. It is also home to an aging population, war veterans and retirees, tough foresters and miners, living with above average unemployment and below average access to healthcare and medical information.

This was a perfect mix for an epidemic. On a per capita basis, our drugstores, hospitals, and other legal outlets receive more prescription pain-killers than anywhere in the nation. And at one time, my region accounted for 25 percent of all OxyContin overdoses in the country. Meanwhile, the death-toll continued to rise, topping out at nearly 500 Oxy-related deaths nationwide. Lives like Sheriff Sam Catron, one of the finest law enforcement officials in Kentucky I've ever known, who was cut short by the bullet of an OxyContin addict.

Today, the President, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief Medical Officer for the Purdue Frederick Company have plead guilty in Federal court to charges of misbranding OxyContin and will pay over \$634 million in damages. This is tremendous news. I have railed against the marketing practices of Purdue in the Appropriations Committee for nearly 7 years and I am pleased to see justice served. I applaud the work of the U.S. Attorneys from the Western District of Virginia and the Virginia Attorney General for their work to bring these criminals to justice.

This landmark case is a wake-up call for the entire pharmaceutical industry, and a warning that deceptive, destructive marketing practices will not be tolerated. The ill-gotten gains and greed of drug profits will hopefully never again be prioritized over the health-care needs of our citizens. Though this sad chapter has finally closed, we must continue to be ever vigilant against the scourge of illegal drugs in our communities. With wise and robust investments in state-run prescription monitoring programs, law enforcement personnel, substance-abuse counselors, and educators, we can win this war; regain strength in our communities, and save lives.

HONORING UPPER BUCKS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HEALTHY YOUTH COALITION

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition.

We are all aware of the dangerous rise in teen substance abuse. It is therefore reassuring to see area youth stepping up to help each other avoid the mistakes too many have made.

The members of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition have taken it upon themselves work against teen substance and alcohol abuse.

The success of their marketing campaigns speaks for itself. Madam Speaker, they can claim credit for 15 percent reduction in tobacco use among high school seniors, a 5

percent decrease in alcohol use among high school sophomores and a 44 percent decline in tobacco use among eighth-graders. These numbers demonstrate the effectiveness of the teen-to-teen strategy that they have implemented to protect their peers—our children.

The students in the Coalition began the school year passing out thousands of small buttons with the letters OMG—a common teenage online abbreviation. Next, they distributed hundreds of t-shirts and decals saying "2outta3." Finally, they handed out more than 1,100 t-shirts and 5,000 wrist bands reading "2outta3 don't drink," completing the message that two-out-of-three Upper Bucks teenagers don't drink.

The Coalition members have also enlisted local sports coaches to train them to focus on the incorporation of youth development strategies into coaching.

Local businesses are also joining the fight. The area Burger King franchise and other local stores have raised millions of dollars in support of Project CARE, which trains adults working with young people and awards higher-education scholarships to students formerly with alcohol, drug, or mental health problems.

I am not the first to recognize their great work. The White House National Drug Control Strategy cited the Coalition as an example for groups across the United States to follow.

Madam Speaker, these students have demonstrated great initiative in working to help their peers. On behalf of the entire 8th District of Pennsylvania, I would like to congratulate them for their efforts and their success, and urge others to use these remarkable young people as an example for true community service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS RIEHL

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Nicholas Riehl.

Private First Class Nicholas "Nic" Riehl, from Shiocton, Wisconsin died at age 21 on April 27, 2007, while serving his country in the U.S. Army near Fallujah, Iraq.

Last Saturday, his sister, Roselyn, had this to say to the several thousand in attendance:

When I think of my big brother Nic, many things come to mind. But coward was not one. So when he joined the army there wasn't going to be a way to stop him. His life was a long, long, road, with many turns, some for good, some for bad; but those little bumps in the road made Nic who he was. If he wanted something he would have to work for it, and he did with such pride. It was truly amazing, also he would do it all with a smile, but not just any smile, he has one of those smiles you can see with your eyes closed.

I know I was truly blessed to have him in my life, better yet as a brother. He was there to always lend me his words of wisdom, a helping hand, or to bring my ego back to the ground, and simply prove to me once again that he was the best. There were many things he attempted to teach me like guitar, how to be a "Riehl" leader on the basketball court, and never give up and also, to stay true to yourself.

I understand that the Lord needed him, not only did He take my big brother, He took my best friend. Nic, I'll see you on the court!

Please join me in a moment of silence for Nic Riehl, and for his family's courage in his loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF 2007 NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, National Teacher Appreciation Day provides us with a special opportunity to reflect on the importance of the teacher in our society and to note with deep appreciation the incalculable contribution that teachers have made to the educational and personal development of our citizenry.

It has been said that half of us is what we make of ourselves and the other half is made by others. There can be little doubt that "the rest of us" is profoundly and powerfully influenced by our teachers. Teachers affect our lives in significant ways—they guide our acquisition of knowledge, they facilitate our personal growth and they stimulate the development of our personalities and our imaginations. In short, they inspire us to be our greater selves.

Our greatest and most successful citizens and achievers have been molded and encouraged by their teachers. Conversely, where there is a failure to educate and inspire—where our young people don't have the guidance of good teachers—the consequences are clear, both in the short and long term.

In the United States today, our teachers hold the fortunes and futures of millions of children and young persons and, by extension, the fortune and future of our Nation as a whole. I am especially aware of this fact as a member of the Education and Labor Committee which is charged with examining the issues for reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. As the 110th Congress moves toward reauthorizing this legislation, we have sought to involve the teachers at every stage in the development of the plan. Second to our children, our Nation's teachers are the most important stakeholders in the future of NCLB.

As we observe National Teacher Appreciation Week, 2007, I would like to congratulate all teachers for continuing to give their best in the noble task of educating the children of our Nation.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL AND WITHDRAWAL BILLS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today's votes on the Iraq supplemental with benchmarks and the Iraqi withdrawal bill are important steps as congressional Democrats do everything we can to reverse the President's disastrous Iraq policy.

I support the vote to withdraw troops because it is consistent with the comprehensive legislation I introduced, "The New Direction in Iraq Act" and the supplemental because it is a way to keep the pressure on the President. Support for the continued occupation of Iraq is fraying, as Republicans have started to say in private what the American people started realizing long ago.

I have opposed the war from the start, and these votes hasten the day when we bring the tragedy of the Iraq war to a close. I will continue to do everything in my power to end this tragic chapter in our history.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PETE TORRES, JR., 1933–2007

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a true pioneer and champion of the common man. Pete Torres, Jr., was a great man who played a vital role in ensuring that everyone had a voice in their government. Mr. Torres passed away on Friday, April 27, 2007 at the age of 73. He was a friend, mentor, and inspiration to many in San Antonio, and he will be missed.

It was the late 1960s when Mr. Torres made history in south Texas and San Antonio. Mr. Carlos Guerra of the San Antonio Express-News best described the climate and challenges that Mr. Torres faced.

"In the 1960s, virtually every South Texas city and town was firmly in the grip of some chamber-backed clique that was neither attuned to the concerns of regular people nor particularly interested in letting minority people speak for themselves."

"San Antonio was hardly the exception," said Guerra.

It was this climate in which Mr. Torres broke down barriers for the common man and took the San Antonio City Council by storm in 1967. At a time when the city council was run by a select group of privileged citizens who in no way accurately reflected the diversity and dynamic of the city of San Antonio, Mr. Torres was an agent of change. His election to the San Antonio City Council taught all of south Texas a lesson in governing by advocating for causes that benefited the majority of San Antonio's people, not a select few.

While he served as a member of the San Antonio's City Council for 4 short years, his impact transcended generations and is still felt today. After his public service career, he continued to represent the disenfranchised and vulnerable as an attorney who was respected and beloved by all. He will forever be remembered as a pioneer and champion of causes for the common man and minorities. While he will be missed, his legacy will live on and the extraordinary contributions he made to south Texas and San Antonio will never be forgotten.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF GEORGE DUNKLIN, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., who passed away May 5, 2007, in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of 89.

Mr. Dunklin had two passions in life—farming and tennis. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to Arkansas where he helped run the family business, Planters Cotton Oil Mill, until he retired in 2005 as president after 66 years. He was the 1975 president of the National Cottonseed Association, Member of the Cotton Advisory Committee to the U.S. Agriculture Department Secretary and he received the 1990 Harvey W. McGeorge Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture, among other honors.

When Mr. Dunklin was not working on behalf of farmers across the country, he could be found on the tennis court. His love for the sport of tennis took him around the world. Not only was he the Arkansas State Men's Tennis Champion a record nine times, but he also played in two Grand Slam tournaments, the French Open and the U.S. Open. Mr. Dunklin was elected to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Tennis Hall of Fame and was a past president of the Arkansas Tennis Association.

Mr. Dunklin was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Pine Bluff, where he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher. He was a member and past president of the Pine Bluff Rotary Club and past president of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce. He was the director of Simmons First National Corporation in Pine Bluff and he served as chairman of the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff.

My deepest condolences go to Mr. Dunklin's wife, Mary Elisabeth "Lib" Black Dunklin of Pine Bluff; his daughter Deborah Tipton of Memphis, TN; his son George Dunklin, Jr. of DeWitt; his two brothers William Dunklin of Pine Bluff and Louis Dunklin of Dallas, TX; and to his 5 grandchildren. Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., will be greatly missed in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and throughout the State of Arkansas.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. What finer tribute to our wives and mothers could we pay during this week before Mother's Day than to join as cosponsors of this important bill.

This legislation would invest in the research we need to discover the potential links between breast cancer and environmental factors. It is research that could someday lead to a cure.

Over 1,000 Utahns will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year; of those, 200 will probably die from the disease. Even though Utah has a lower incidence rate compared to other States, it's tragic that a woman in our country has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime. That is a much greater risk than in 1975, when it was 1 in 11. We know that breast cancer remains the second-leading cause of cancer death among women. I am committed—as I know you are—to finding answers to the questions about possible links between this life-threatening disease and environmental factors.

We know we are making progress against breast cancer, but we don't yet know enough about what causes it, or how to prevent it.

Let's make this 2007 Mother's Day the time we step up our investment into the critical search for answers. A bipartisan group of 144 of our colleagues has already cosponsored H.R. 1157. I urge everyone to join that group.

I hope that this Congress will act on the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. I believe it's an important piece of the puzzle as we continue the fight to defeat this potential threat to the health and well-being of mothers everywhere.

URGING SUPPORT OF THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for greater research into the possible link between breast cancer and the environment. I am a supporter of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act and I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation, as a tribute to all of our mothers on Mother's Day. This bill would invest in the research still necessary to determine the potential links between breast cancer and the environment, so we can better treat and eventually eradicate this terrible disease.

Madam Speaker, families in the 8th District of Pennsylvania have urged me to fight for increased research into the potential links between the environment and breast cancer. It is especially important to me personally, as my own mother battled and beat breast cancer when I was a young child. I continue admire her bravery and determination, and I hope we can look to that strength as a model as we commit to doing everything in our power to find a cure.

A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer during her lifetime—this risk was 1 in 11 in 1975. Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women.

While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it. What better way to honor our mothers this year than to commit to finding answers to a disease suffered by more than 3 million women in this country? Let's declare war on breast cancer, and invest in getting the answers we need to eradicate this disease.

I urge my fellow members to support of the bipartisan Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

HOLDING CONTRACTORS ACCOUNT- ABLE FOR AIRPORT SECURITY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleague from Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, in introducing legislation (H.R. 2288) that will address a security loophole endangering millions of Americans. One lesson we learned from September 11 is the importance of airport security. The security of our airports has a glaring weakness: badges.

According to a CBS Channel 2 Chicago investigative report, 3,760 aviation security badges have gone missing from O'Hare Airport since 2004. These badges are the only identification necessary for law enforcement officials, independent contractors, baggage handlers, flight attendants, and pilots to enter O'Hare. Aside from these aviation security badges, no baggage inspections, metal detectors, or other searches are required to enter the airfield. The investigative report revealed that airport contractors are unwilling to reclaim badges from employees who quit, were fired, or otherwise reassigned.

This casual attitude towards reclaiming security badges is not acceptable. O'Hare registered more than 477,000 flights in 2005. In light of last year's liquid explosive threat, there remains a risk of terrorist attacks on domestic and international flights. Given this threat, we must know with certainty who has unrestricted access to the airport, terminals, baggage, and aircraft and if they remain trustworthy and authorized to work in a secure area.

This problem is not isolated to Chicago. According to data compiled by the Congressional Research Service, many of the Nation's airports have similar problems reclaiming security badges. In early February, officials at the Los Angeles International Airport reported more than 120 missing Transportation Security Administration uniforms and badges. In Oakland, 500 badges went missing last year. At Buffalo Airport in New York, nearly 40 security badges were reported missing or stolen in 2006. Forty-two turned up missing in Dallas.

What we need now is for the private contractors who employ airport employees to be held accountable for what should be a routine business practice. Under this legislation, contractors must make a reasonable effort to retrieve badges from employees whose term of employment ends, and must notify the local airport authority of the termination within 24 hours. Failure to do would result in a civil fine of up to \$10,000 per badge per day. Mr. LIPINSKI and I crafted this bill in consultation with the Airports Council International of North America, our Nation's largest airport association.

In the post-September 11 environment, we must ensure professional vigilance to secure our Nation's airports. We need private contractors to be held accountable for what should be a routine business practice. By hitting contractors where it hurts—their pocketbooks—we can help make our Nation's airports safer.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JIM CASTLEMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Jim Castleman for his 38 years of faithful service teaching in the public school system.

Jim Castleman began teaching at Plew Elementary in 1969 upon receiving his Bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida and later went on to earn his Master's degree in 1972. While teaching fifth grade at Plew Elementary, Mr. Castleman has become a prominent member of the community well-known for his dedication and generosity. His contributions to excellence in education were recognized when he was honored by the Okaloosa County School Board as Teacher of the Year in 1985.

Mr. Castleman's involvement both in and out of the classroom proves his dedication and passion for teaching. In 1991, Mr. Castleman began coaching the school's tremendously successful Academic Team. The Academic Team competes in three state competitions each year and over the course of his seventeen years as coach they have earned numerous awards including eleven 1st place awards, nineteen 2nd place awards, and three 3rd place awards. For Mr. Castleman's final year as coach, the team not only earned 1st place in the state, but also 1st place in the entire Southeast Region.

He has spent much of his time becoming personally involved in the students' lives in his efforts to make learning an enjoyable adventure. Mr. Castleman could often be found on the playground engaging in a friendly game of kickball with his students. Since 1972, he has been building and launching rockets with his students, and in 1991 he developed the popular educational club, Young Astronauts. The program concludes each year with a trip to space camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Castleman is also credited with organizing the school's Safety Patrol which teaches his students the importance of service and safety for others.

As a member of the local 1960's rock band, the Thunderbeats, Jim performed gigs throughout Florida and later utilized his talent and love for percussion to teach drum lessons for 35 years. He plans to continue conducting drum lessons after his retirement from the public school system.

Out of his passion for teaching and his love for children, Jim sets high standards for all of his students and works with them to achieve their individual goals and the desired results of the overall academic performance of the class. He is the positive force behind each student's growth of mind, by giving them the confidence, knowledge, and inspiration needed to succeed.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Jim Castleman on his exemplary service in the Okaloosa County School District and wish him continued success during his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I regret that I could not be present today, Thursday, May 10, 2007 to vote on rollcall vote nos. 319, 320, 321, 322 and 323 due to a family medical situation.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall vote No. 319 on the amendment to H.R. 1873, that would require greater economic analyses by agencies on contracting actions that displace small businesses, and close current loopholes that have allowed agencies to avoid performing analyses on new work and construction; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 320 on the amendment to H.R. 1873 that would extend small business contracting goals to overseas contracts; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 321 on the amendment to H.R. 1873 that would raise the government-wide small business procurement goal from 25 percent to 30 percent; "nay" on rollcall vote No. 322 on the motion to recommit H.R. 1873 with instructions; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 323 on final passage of H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, I was not present to vote due to a family medical situation. I submitted for the record my votes had I been present. The RECORD incorrectly listed an "aye" on rollcall vote No. 315 on the amendment to H.R. 1684 that would remove section 407 of the bill, which requires that identification cards, uniforms, protective gear and badges of Homeland Security personnel be manufactured in the United States. I would like the record to reflect that I submitted a "nay" vote for rollcall No. 315.

 IN MEMORY OF THE PASSING OF
STEPHEN BRANSDORFER
HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Stephen Bransdorfer, who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on March 15, 2007 at age 77.

Mr. Bransdorfer lived a full and rewarding life as a dedicated public servant, highly esteemed attorney and loving husband. In his il-

lustrious career, he served as president of the State Bar of Michigan, was a deputy U.S. attorney general under President George H.W. Bush, and was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Mr. Bransdorfer was a scholarly man as well, graduating with law degrees from the University of Michigan Law School and Georgetown University. He also worked in the U.S. Justice Department following law school, and served as the public spokesman for the Department when the federal government ordered schools to integrate in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. His deep commitment and expertise in law left a lasting impact on our country, and his legacy is one all Americans should turn to as a model for professionalism, dedication and patriotism.

Mr. Bransdorfer was a noted lawyer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he practiced at the law firm of Miller, Johnson, Snell and Cummsiskey. Later he formed his own firm with his sons. Mr. Bransdorfer was a devoted member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he worshipped with his family for many years.

Mr. Bransdorfer was an active civic leader in many areas of public life. He was very well known in my district for his committed public service, and his work with the Kent County Republican Party. He ran as a Republican for state attorney general, and put in many years of dedicated service as a leader in his church, his community, and the Republican Party.

We have lost a model citizen from my community, and I extend my most heartfelt condolences to his loving wife Peggy and his children, their spouses, and their children.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6003–S6032

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1368–1375, and S. Res. 194–195. **Page S6016**

Measures Passed:

Commemorating 40th Anniversary of In re Gault, et al.: Senate agreed S. Res. 194, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the landmark case *In re Gault, et al.*, in which the Supreme Court held that all children accused of delinquent acts and facing a proceeding in which their freedom may be curtailed have a right to counsel in the proceedings against them. **Pages S6030–31**

Measures Considered:

Water Resources Development Act: Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States. **Pages S6008–10**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate begin consideration of the bill at 3 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007, and that Senator Boxer be recognized to offer an amendment. **Page S6032**

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Majority Leader, with the concurrence of the Republican Leader, may at anytime consider H.R. 2206, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. **Page S6008**

Messages from the House: **Page S6016**

Measures Referred: **Page S6016**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6016–18**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6018–23**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6014–16**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6024–30**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 12:08 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6032.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, May 14, 2007.

Committee Meetings

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Held a hearing on ESEA Reauthorization: Boosting Quality in the Teaching Profession. Testimony was heard from Joel I. Klein, Chancellor, Department of Education, New York City; Jack D. Dale, Superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia; Joseph P. Burke, Superintendent of Schools, Springfield, Massachusetts; and public witnesses.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE—ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Held a hearing on Administration Proposals on Climate Change and Energy Independence. Testimony was heard from Mary E. Peters, Secretary of Transportation; Stephen Johnson, Administrator, EPA; John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of the Army; and Lurita Alexis Doan, Administrator, GSA; Stephen T. Ayers, Acting Architect of the Capitol and Deputy Architect/Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Congress; and Daniel P. Beard, Chief Administrative Officer, House of Representatives.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see

DAILY DIGEST, p. D 651)

H.R.1681, to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century. Signed on May 11, 2007 (Public Law 110–26)

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 14 through May 19, 2007

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 3:00 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the motion to proceed to the consider-

ation of H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act.

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act and vote on certain amendments.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: May 16, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research, 9:30 a.m., SD–116.

May 16, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to receive testimony from sundry public witnesses, 10 a.m., SD–192.

May 16, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, 3 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: May 15, business meeting to consider pending military nomination, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

May 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the United States European Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 16, business meeting to consider “Foreign Investment an original bill to make technical corrections to Title III of SAFETEA–LU; H.R. 1675, to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors, H.R. 1676, to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing, S. 254, to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi, and the nominations of David George Nason, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank, Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, and Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

May 17, Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment, to hold hearings to examine consolidation of

National Association of Securities Dealers and the regulatory functions of the New York Stock Exchange, focusing on working towards improved regulation, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 16, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

May 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine violence in the media, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 15, to hold hearings to examine the short-term energy outlook for summer 2007, focusing on oil and gasoline, 10 a.m., SD-366.

May 15, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 916, to modify the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, to establish the Minidoka National Historic Site, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 1057, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the New River in the States of North Carolina and Virginia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1209, to provide for the continued administration of Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: May 15, to hold hearings to examine green buildings, focusing on benefits to health, the environment, and the bottom line, 10 a.m., SD-406.

May 16, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the state of mercury regulation, science, and technology, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: May 16, to hold hearings to examine the efficacy of United States preference programs, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 15, Subcommittee on Retirement and Aging, to hold hearings to examine Alzheimer's disease, focusing on current and future breakthrough research, 10 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 15, to hold hearings to examine equal representation in Congress, focusing on providing voting rights to the District of Columbia, 10 a.m., SD-342.

May 17, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine the federal government's security clearance process, focusing on evaluating progress and identifying obstacles to improvement, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

May 18, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine growth trends in health care premiums for active and retired federal employees, 10:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 17, to hold an oversight hearing to examine law enforcement in Indian Country, 9:30 a.m., SR-485.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 15, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence, 10 a.m., SD-226.

May 16, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking, 10 a.m., SD-226.

May 17, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1027, to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, S. 221, to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 1079, to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, S. Res. 138, honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez, S. Res. 132, recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for 65 years of service to the United States, and S. Res. 130, designating July 28, 2007, as "National Day of the American Cowboy", and possible authorization of subpoenas in the connection with investigation into the replacement of U.S. attorneys, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: May 16, business meeting to mark up S. 1256, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act, 2 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 16, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 15, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John A. Rizzo, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

May 17, Full Committee, closed business meeting to mark up an original bill authorizing funds for fiscal year

2008 for the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: May 16, to hold hearings to examine Medicare Advantage marketing and sales, focusing on who has the advantage, 10:30 a.m., SD-106.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, May 14, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review the Federal Crop Insurance Program, 2:30 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

May 15, Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, hearing to review industry response to the safety of fresh and fresh-cut produce, 10 a.m., 11300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, May 14, Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, executive, on Domestic Agencies Intelligence Programs, 5 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Committee on Education and Labor, May 15, hearing on Best Practices for Making College Campuses Safe, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing on Private Sector Whistleblowers: Are There Sufficient Legal Protections? 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

May 16, full Committee, hearing on Evaluating the Effectiveness of MSHA's Mine Safety and Health Programs, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness, hearing on Preparing Teachers for the Classroom: The Role of the Higher Education Act and No Child Left Behind, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 15, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled "Protecting Our Children: Current Issues in Children's Product Safety," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Medicare Savings Plan and Low Income Subsidy: Keeping Medicare's Promise for Seniors and People with Disabilities," 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act," 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "2006 Prudhoe Bay Shutdown: Will Recent Regulatory Changes and BP Management Reforms Prevent Future Failures," 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Diminished Capacity: Can FDA Assure the Safety and Security of the Nation's Food Supply?" 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on Telecommunication and the Internet, hearing on a proposed measure addressing Broadband Mapping and Data Collection, 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, May 16, hearing entitled "Private Equity's Effects on Workers and Firms," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, hearing entitled "Remittances: Access, Transparency, and Market Efficiency—A Progress Report," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 15, hearing on U.S. Re-Engagement in the Global Effort to Fight Climate Change, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, briefing on Africa's Water Crisis and the 2006 UNDP Human Development Report, 2:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, hearing on Africa's Water Crisis and the U.S. Response, 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia, hearing on Public Diplomacy in the Middle East and South Asia: Is the Message Getting Through? 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 17, full Committee, hearing on Russia: Rebuilding the Iron Curtain, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, hearing on Declining Approval for American Foreign Policy in Muslim Countries: Does It Make It More Difficult To Fight al Qaeda, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, May 15, hearing entitled "The 2007 Hurricane Season: Are We Prepared?" 1 p.m., 311 Cannon.

May 16, Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "The Impact of Foreign Ownership and Foreign Investment on the Security of Our Nation's Critical Infrastructure," 2:30 p.m., 1539 Longworth.

May 17, full Committee, hearing entitled "Protecting Our Schools: Federal Efforts To Strengthen Community Preparedness and Response," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

May 17, Subcommittee Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism and the Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight, joint hearing entitled "Deepwater: Charting a Course for Safer Waters," 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 16, Antitrust Task Force, hearing on Prices at the Pump: Market Failure and the Oil Industry, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, hearing on Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Becoming Americans-U.S. Immigration Integration, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1943, Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2007; and H.R. 1199, Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007, 1 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, hearing on Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Impact of Immigration on States and Localities, 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 18, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, hearing on Comprehensive Immigration Reform: The Future of

Undocumented Immigrant Students, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, May 15, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1239, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2007; H.R. 1388, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Act; H.R. 1483, To amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas; and H.R. 1528, New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 17, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 716, Santa Rosa Urban Water Reuse Plan Act; H.R. 236, North Bay Water Reuse Program Act of 2007; H.R. 1503, Avra/Black Wash Reclamation and Riparian Restoration Project; and H.R. 1725, Rancho California Water District Recycled Water Reclamation Facility Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, May 15, hearing on the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, hearing on Federal Government Energy bill, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, May 15, to consider the following: H.R. 1427, Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007; and H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, May 15, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Prospects for Advanced Coal Technologies: Efficient Energy Production, Carbon Capture and Sequestration, 1 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on Federal STEM Education Programs: Educator's Perspectives, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 16, full Committee, hearing on the State of Climate Change Science 2007: The Findings of the Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group III: Mitigation of Climate Change, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Developing Untapped Potential: Geothermal and Ocean Power Technologies, 10 a.m., 2325 Rayburn.

May 17, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on Building and Maintaining a Healthy and Strong NASA Workforce, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, May 16, hearing on legislation affecting the SBA's Entrepreneurial Development programs, including its Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center Programs, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 16, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, hearing on Climate Change and Energy Independence: Transportation and Infrastructure Issues, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

May 18, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing on Assuring the National Guard Is as Ready at Home as It Is Abroad, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, May 15, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 612, Returning Servicemember VA Health Insurance Act of 2007; H.R. 67, Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 1660, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region; H.R. 1470, Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act; and H.R. 2199, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain improvements in treatment of Individuals with traumatic brain injuries, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

May 17, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on Veterans Entrepreneurship and Self Employment, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 15, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Payments to Certain Medicare Fee-for-Service Providers, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

May 15, Subcommittee on Income Security, hearing on challenges Facing the Child Welfare System, 10 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: May 16, to hold hearings to examine the explosive costs of elder care and determine if they are hurting family finances and business competition, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, May 14

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Monday, May 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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